Bengaluru Wednesday, October 22, 2025 Pages 16 Vol 78 No 292 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Sanae Takaichi becomes Japan's first woman PM

64-year-old Conservative replaces Shigeru Ishiba

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DH Wishes its readers a *Happy Deepavali*

Our offices will remain closed on Wednesday and there will be no issue of the paper on Thursday. For the latest news, visit

www.deccanherald.com

Visa status change, H-1B extension spared of $1L fee

Fresh USCIS guidelines clarify Trump's Sept proclamation

NEW YORK, PTI

FEE FINEPRINT
Fee does not apply to "change of status" cases where individuals switch categories without leaving the country, like moving from F-1 student status to H-1B
However, if the USCIS determines that the person is "ineligible for a change of status or an amendment or extension of stay", then the fee will apply

The $100,000 fee imposed by the Trump administration on new H-1B visa petitions will not apply to applicants seeking a "change of status" or "extension of stay", according to fresh guidelines.

Issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on Monday, the guidelines clarified the exemptions to President Donald Trump's September 19 proclamation, 'Restriction on entry of certain nonimmigrant workers', which will raise the fee for new H1-B visas to a steep $100,000 (approx Rs 88 lakh).

"The Proclamation does not apply to any previously issued and currently valid H-1B visas, or any petitions submitted prior to 12:01 am eastern daylight time on September 21, 2025," the USCIS said.

It added that the proclamation also does not prevent any current H1-B holder from travelling in and out of the US.

The USCIS clarified that the fee does not apply to "change of status" cases where individuals switch categories without leaving the country, such as moving from F-1 student status to H-1B status.

"It says the fee only applies to cases filed for people outside the United States, so they can come in," Dan Berger of Green & Spiegel told Forbes in an interview. "Employers were nervous about doing change of status because the $100k might apply if they travel," he added.

The proclamation does not apply to a petition filed at or after "12.01 am eastern daylight time on September 21, 2025, that is requesting an amendment, change of status, or extension of stay for an alien inside the US where the alien is granted such amendment, change, or extension.

"Further, an alien beneficiary of such petition will not be considered to be subject to the payment if he or she subsequently departs the United States and applies for a visa based on the approved petition and/or seeks to reenter the United States on a current H-1B visa."

However, if the USCIS determines that the person is "ineligible for a change of status or an amendment or extension of stay", then the $100,000 fee would apply.

A beneficiary will not be considered to be subject to the payment if they subsequently depart the US and apply for a visa based on the approved petition and/or seek to re-enter the US on a current H-1B visa, it said.

The proclamation signed by the US President raised the fee for H1-B visas to a staggering $100,000 annually, in a move that could adversely impact Indian professionals on visas in the US.

Indians make up an estimated 71% of all approved H-1B applications in recent years, according to the USCIS. Companies pay to sponsor H-1B applicants.

Blue-collar job-seekers taken for a European 'ride'

Shady recruiters target workers as Gulf jobs lose sheen

DH SPECIAL

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

CON JOB

- With the Gulf no longer attractive, scamsters luring workers with Europe offers
- Fly-by-night operators scam jobseekers and shut up shop within months
- Crackdown on two unlicensed consultancies in Sept
- Several similar cases filed in 2025

Shady recruiting agencies in Bengaluru are taking advantage of the growing demand for blue-collar jobs in Europe, as the working class looks for employment beyond the Gulf countries.

In the guise of providing visas, these fly-by-night operators are scamming jobseekers out of lakhs of rupees and shutting up shop within months.

While people in Karnataka's tier-2 and tier-3 cities continue to gravitate towards Gulf countries for employment opportunities, those in Bengaluru are eyeing jobs in European countries like Poland, Hungary, Luxembourg and Austria, according to industry insiders.

"The Gulf was popular among Bengalureans about a decade ago, but in the last eight-odd years, there has been little improvement in the standard of living of blue-collar immigrants in these countries," a government official told *DH*. "These illegal agencies are using this opportunity to lure in people with "well-paying jobs in Europe".

While a driver making Rs 30,000 a month in Bengaluru may earn just Rs 10,000-15,000 more in a Gulf country, the pay in Europe is around Rs 1 lakh. "Jobs are varied—from kitchen help to warehouse workers, janitors to supermarket salesmen and so on. People fall into the trap after being offered high salaries," the official said.

Investigations by the Protector of Emigrants (PoE) office in Bengaluru led to a crackdown on two such unlicensed consultancies in September. Several similar cases have been filed in 2025.

Bengaluru has only 37 active registered overseas recruitment agencies. According to the Emigration Act, agencies can charge a service fee of Rs 30,000, plus GST. Dozens of others operate under the radar, according to the official.

Madiwala-based Harsha K, was charged Rs 2.2 lakh by DM Immigration Consultants, on Union Street near Shivajinagar, for a warehouse operations job in Poland.

▸ Blue-collar, Page 7

Red flags

Protector of Emigrants (PoE) Bengaluru has advised individuals aspiring to work abroad to verify the credentials of any recruitment agency by visiting the government website (www.emigrate.gov.in). The portal provides a complete list of registered recruitment agencies.

DKS: 500 km of B'luru roads will be white-topped

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar on Monday announced that the state government is preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to white-top 500 km of roads in Bengaluru for Rs 4,000 crore.

Speaking at a ground-breaking ceremony, he gave a detailed account of the broader infrastructure works planned across the city.

He highlighted the durability of these works, stating that white-topped roads last for about 25-30 years.

White-topping has already been undertaken on 148 km of roads. The Deputy Chief Minister also mentioned the decision to build a 117 km-long Bengaluru Business Corridor and an ambitious plan for 113 km of elevated corridors.

Details on Page 3

BJP-JD(S) to take on Cong with two coordination panels

BENGALURU, DHNS

Vijayendra

Kumaraswamy

> Kumaraswamy has suggested that we should have a coordination committee for Bengaluru, where GBA polls will happen, and another committee for the state. They have said that they will send their names in a week or 8-10 days. After that, I will discuss it with our party leaders and we will decide on the coordination committees
>
> **- BY Vijayendra**
> BJP state president

Alliance partners BJP and JD(S) have decided to constitute two coordination committees to sharpen their fight against the ruling Congress.

One committee will exclusively look into the alliance activities in Bengaluru, where the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) polls are expected to be held soon.

The other will deal with matters across the state, including the zilla panchayat and taluk panchayat (ZP and TP) elections that will follow the GBA polls.

The decisions were taken after BJP state president B Y Vijayendra, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, and other BJP leaders met top JD(S) leader and Union minister HD Kumaraswamy on Tuesday.

Kumaraswamy is said to have suggested the plan to have two committees.

If the two parties face the GBA elections together, it will be their third outing together after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the bypolls to three Assembly elections.

Though the alliance performed well in the Lok Sabha polls by bagging 19 of the 28 seats, it bombed in the subsequent Assembly bypolls in November 2024, losing all three seats.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Vijayendra said: "Kumaraswamy has suggested that we should have a coordination committee for Bengaluru, where GBA polls will happen, and another committee for the state. They have said that they will send their names in a week or 8-10 days. After that, I will discuss it with our party leaders and we will decide on the coordination committees."

▸ Coordination, Page 7

Lokpal seeks 7 BMW cars, gets slammed

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman, has floated a tender to procure seven BMW cars, valued at around Rs five crore, a move that was slammed in several quarters.

The tender is for the supply of seven BMW 3 series 330Li cars. It has specified that it should be an 'M Sport' model with 'long wheelbase' and in white colour. The on-road price of this car is around Rs 69.5 lakh in the national capital.

At present, the Lokpal has seven members against its sanctioned strength of eight.

Prominent lawyer Prashant Bhushan was among those who blasted the move, saying members "are not bothered by graft and are happy with their luxuries".

Details on Page 10

Ola Electric engineer denied variable pay, incentives for 2 years: Brother

BENGALURU, DHNS: K Aravind, the 38-year-old Ola Electric engineer who died by suicide allegedly due to workplace harassment, had not received his variable pay and incentives for two years, his brother has claimed.

In a 28-page handwritten death note, Aravind detailed the unpaid dues and urged his family to pursue legal action.

The note was addressed to his family, a Union minister from Karnataka, the police and the media, his elder brother Ashwin Kannan told *DH*. The family plans to approach the Labour Department for action against the firm.

Details on Page 7

After bitter spat over B'luru infra, Kiran meets DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS: Industrialist and Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw met Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday, with the meeting generating plenty of buzz.

"It was a pleasure to meet Ms. @kiranshaw, entrepreneur and Founder of Biocon, at my residence today. We had an engaging discussion on Bengaluru's growth, innovation, and the path ahead for Karnataka's growth story," Shivakumar posted on X.

As per sources, the industrialist extended an invitation to a family event to politicos, including CM Siddaramaiah, M B Patil and B S Yediyurappa. Kiran and Shivakumar had an online spat over Bengaluru infrastructure.

Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw at the residence of DyCM D K Shivakumar on Tuesday.

Quickly

Govt to pick projects for local economy push

The government will identify "high-impact" and "short-term" projects that can be executed in the next three months to boost the state's economy, IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge has said. Priyank held a meeting with Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh recently to discuss projects that can lift off under the Local Economy Accelerator Programme (LEAP).

Details on Page 6

'BJP forced 3 Jan Suraaj candidates to withdraw'

After three candidates of the Jan Suraaj party withdrew in Bihar, Prashant Kishor alleged that they were pressured into withdrawing their nomination for the upcoming Bihar election. Kishor alleged that the BJP forced them to do so.

Details on Page 10

Ex-Punjab DGP, his wife booked after son's death

Punjab's former director general of police Mohammad Mustafa and his wife Razia Sultana, a former state minister, have been booked for murdering their son, Haryana Police said. Akil Akhter, an advocate, died in Haryana's Panchkula on Thursday. Also booked in the case are Akhter's wife and sister.

Details on Page 10

OpenAI unveils search browser 'Atlas'

ChatGPT-maker OpenAI on Tuesday announced an "Atlas" search browser, leveraging its artificial intelligence prowess in a direct challenge to Google Chrome. "This is an AI-powered web browser built around ChatGPT," OpenAI chief Sam Altman said in a streamed presentation.

Details on Page 12

TN rains: Red alert issued in 5 districts

The Northeast monsoon has intensified, with several parts of Tamil Nadu experiencing heavy to very heavy rainfall on Tuesday under the influence of two well-marked low pressures over southeast Arabian Sea and southwest Bay of Bengal.

Details on Page 11

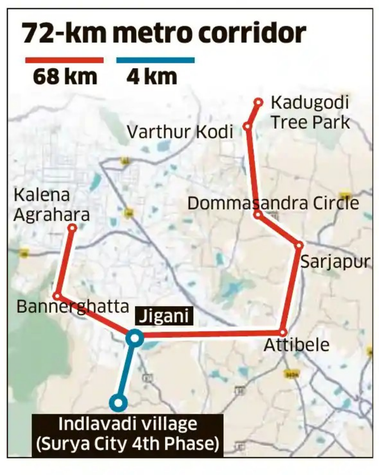
UK professor deported from IGI Airport

A professor associated with the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London was deported from the IGI Airport over alleged violation of visa conditions, a government source said on Tuesday. Francesca Orsini, a scholar of Hindi, was deported Monday, soon after she arrived from Hong Kong.

Details on Page 10

LONGEST LINE

Metro link planned to upcoming int'l sports complex in B'luru



DH SPECIAL

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Namma Metro plans to expand its largest proposed corridor with a branch line connecting the upcoming international sports complex in southeastern Bengaluru.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) has completed a feasibility study for a 68-km corridor linking Kalena Agrahara on Bannerghatta Road to Kadugodi Tree Park near Whitefield.

The line will run through Bannerghatta, Jigani, Attibele, Sarjapur, Dommasandra Circle and Varthur Kodi, serving major tech hubs.

Delhi-based Introsoft Solutions Pvt Ltd has prepared a draft feasibility report covering alignment, traffic demand, land acquisition, cost estimates, number of stations and ridership projections.

Following the state Cabinet's recent approval of a Rs 2,350-crore international sports complex in Surya City Phase 4 at Indlavadi in Anekal taluk, the BMRCL has been asked to include a metro link to the venue. The consultant is now conducting additional studies to incorporate this.

A senior BMRCL official with knowledge of the matter said a 3.5-4 km spur (branch) line was planned to connect the sports complex. Accordingly, the line will expand to 72 km.

"This spur line will branch off after Jigani towards Anekal. It will allow people coming from Bannerghatta and Anekal to reach the stadium directly. The mainline will continue on its alignment, with dedicated trains on both routes," the official told *DH*.

The sports complex will have an 80,000-capacity cricket stadium, facilities for 24 indoor and outdoor sports, and a 30,000-seater auditorium.

▸ Sports complex, Page 7

GST Bachat Utsav
My farming now comes with savings
FESTIVAL OF SAVINGS, SEASON OF JOY
TRACTORS ARE NOW CHEAPER BY NEARLY ₹40,000
भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF BHARAT
CBC 15502/13/0038/2526

Viral video of preteen sparks debate

The 10-year-old's irreverent responses on a quiz show went viral. Empathy, and not trolling, is the way to handle it, counsellors say

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Ishit Bhatt with Amitabh Bachchan on the show. CREDIT: YOUTUBE/SET INDIA

Video clips of a 10-year-old boy, Ishit Bhatt, on the game show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' recently went viral after his interaction with host Amitabh Bachchan was labelled "arrogant", "rude", and "disrespectful" by netizens.

Some defended the child, saying he was "just excited". *Metrolife* spoke to school counsellors and mental health experts to weigh in.

Child and adolescent psychiatrist Dr Arohi Vardhan says the criticism shows how quickly people label behaviour without understanding child development. "From what is visible, the child's response doesn't appear problematic. It may look assertive or overconfident, but not necessarily rude or arrogant," she notes, adding that social and emotional awareness is still developing among 10-year olds, and the frontal lobe, which gauges appropriateness, is still maturing.

Maullika Sharma, adolescent counsellor, says the child's responses were blown out of proportion. "His comments came from confidence and excitement; he was likely thrilled to be on TV for the first time. While the tone towards the end does sound rude, trolling a 10-year-old is unfair," she says.

Aishwarya Vimal, counsellor at a Padmanabhanagar school, agrees: "What we saw could be a mix of excitement, nervousness, and unfiltered honesty. Children between nine and 12 are still developing independence and emotional regulation."

Common at that age

Neha Poonacha, counsellor at a school in Hennur, says preteens often push boundaries as part of identity formation. "Children want to be seen as smart, independent thinkers — sometimes even smarter than their parents or teachers. It becomes concerning only if they consistently undermine authority," she explains. About 30-40% of the students, she observes, display such behaviour, "mostly harmless and shaped by their environment".

Sharanya Misra, another school counsellor, adds that preteens are often misjudged: "Their boldness can be mistaken for arrogance."

Maullika says, "Instead of asking, 'Why is the child rude?', ask, 'What's happening inside this child?' Parents need to reflect on themselves and the situations, and not just on fixing the child."

Arohi emphasises that most such behaviour is transient. She notes that apparent rudeness may stem from frustration, anxiety, or bullying.

The experts also agree that social media and reality shows influence perceptions of "cool" behaviour. Neha says: "Kids imitate witty comebacks or one-upmanship they see rewarded online, without realising it may appear arrogant in real life."

How to respond

Arohi says families are seeking more guidance today due to greater awareness. "Avoid labelling your child as rude. Guide them to reflect — ask how they would feel if someone spoke to them the same way. This develops empathy and self-awareness."

Maullika adds, "Children do what they see," highlighting the influence of their environment.

"Preteens are learning to express themselves confidently. Moments like these are learning opportunities, not behavioural problems," notes Aishwarya. She suggests parents calmly discuss tone, avoid overreacting, and model respectful communication to prevent patterns.

Neha adds that empathy and consistency matter. She says: "Help children reflect on how their actions affect others, using stories and exercises to build empathy."

'Act against the trolling'

Child rights activists have urged the NCPCR to act against online trolling of the 10-year-old boy following his appearance on the show.

Activist Nagasimha G Rao said the child's innocent responses were misinterpreted, leading to widespread sharing of his images and severe cyberbullying. He stressed the harassment infringes on the boy's privacy and dignity, calling for counselling and support instead of public shaming, and urged action against those responsible for spreading the content.

POPCORN

Road rage

It all started with Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw quoting an overseas visitor to her company who purportedly said, "Why are the roads so bad and why is there so much garbage around?" The Noida channels took the cue and started slamming the government, while the Congress leaders out here said she was partisan. It went back and forth for a while, before D K Shivakumar, deputy chief minister, delivered a punchline reminiscent of 'If you're bad, I'm your dad': 'If you forget your roots, you won't get the fruits.' Last we heard, she was visiting him with a box of sweets, and posting conciliatory messages. Dodged the criticism. Now to dodge the potholes.

EVENTS

Mamta Sagar

Arundhati Ghosh

Poetry discussion
The Art of Language, a discussion with Mamta Sagar and Arundhati Ghosh about poetry and translation will be held on October 24, 5 pm at Museum of Art and Photography, Kasturba Road. Entry free. Registration is mandatory.

Musical night
Ishq Sufiana, an evening of Qawali and Sufi music by Mehfil-e-Sama will be held on October 24, 6.30 pm at Bloom Creative Zone, Electronic City. Tickets online.

On stage
Jangama and Jiguru is staging 'Rumurumurumu', conceived by actor, writer, and filmmaker Shraddha Raj, on October 24, 7 pm at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. It is a result of months spent living among local arai and nadaswaram artistes. Entry free. RSVP is mandatory.

Comedy night
Koramangala Comedy Nights will be held at TAG Comedy Club, Koramangala, on October 22 and 23, 8.30 pm. Tickets online.

Jamming session
Wednesday Kannada and Hindi Jamming session, featuring retro Kannada and Hindi songs, will be held at Silaa The Garden Cafe, Malleswaram, on October 22, 6 pm and 8 pm. Tickets online.

City's heritage sweet shops serve up slice of nostalgia

These stores, some over 100 years old, are sought after for recipes handed down generations

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

Santhanam Sweets and Savouries on Narayan Pillai Street was opened 60 years ago.

Bengaluru's oldest sweet shops have interesting origin stories. Sri Venkateshwara Sweetmeat Stall, for instance, was started by a gentleman who would go around selling Mysore pak on his bicycle in Chikkaballapura.

The man, V A Venkatachalapathi Setty, started making and selling sweets in the early 1910s, when he was 14. "He mainly sold at temple fairs and exhibitions. It was only in 1952 that he moved to Bengaluru on the suggestion of a friend," says Raghu Nagaraj, third-generation owner. For two years, he was unable to make even one sale. He was on the verge of packing up and returning to his home town, when he finally got his first customer. "So he cancelled his plan of moving back and instead brought his family to Bengaluru," Nagaraj says.

Mysore pak remains their most sought after product, especially during Deepavali. "We believe it was my grandfather who invented it," he tells *Metrolife*. The Prime Minister's office is one of their biggest clients. "They usually order our Mysore pak," he reveals. The recipes have not changed since Setty started the shop. Apart from Mysore pak, their caramel dry fruit gujiya has also been popular during the festive season. "It was introduced seven years ago and was an instant hit," Nagaraj shares. The store has four locations across the city.

On Narayan Pillai Street, off Commercial Street, stands a 60-year-old shop — Santhanam Sweets and Savouries. Meda Santhanam was the head cook of a wealthy family that lived in Shivajinagar. After working for some years, he wanted to strike out on his own. He started by selling damroot and pumpkin halwa. Now, their specialties include kajjaya, rava laddoo, badusha, chandrakala and jangiri or imarti.

Over the last two years, customers have shown a preference for their baklava during Deepavali. "This year, we introduced jaggery, coconut and date burfi, which has seen many takers," says Sabrish Meda, head of marketing and sales. He notes that sales have scaled up exponentially over the years "because people do not have the time to make sweets at home, which was not the case earlier".

Started in 1948, Bhagatram Sweets, Chaats and Fast Food on Commercial street, is popular for its jamuns. "When he opened the shop, my grandfather would stand outside, handing out free jamuns to people walking by. He told them to buy it only if they liked it. It soon became a success," says Krish Giridhar Hinduja, the manager. His customers are keen on innovative and unique recipes. So options like strawberry katli and apple katli are added to the menu during Deepavali. At their Ulsoor branch, Sindhi sweets like sev barfi and tosha have been popular this season.

At Sri Rama Vilas Sweets in Nagarathpete, Mysore pak and milk peda are the most popular this year. Every year, they also introduce special sweets like chocolate burfi, pista burfi and kesar peda for Deepavali. It was set up in 1932 by a man named Gundappa. "During my grandfather's time, it was visited by old Bengalureans. Now, their children and grandchildren continue to buy from us," says Pradeep Narasimha, Gundappa's grandson.

Ex-ISRO scientist writes two books for school kids

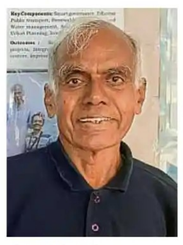
They cover topics ranging from space missions to environmental challenges

TEAM METROLIFE

The books feature A PJ Abdul Kalam as the narrator.

Two educational books written by a retired ISRO scientist based in Bengaluru will be launched on Thursday. Aimed at school students, the books explore topics such as life on Earth, environmental challenges, outer space, and space missions.

Author P Raghuthama Rao says he hopes to inspire young minds, following in the footsteps of his mentor A P J Abdul Kalam. "At climate conventions in Paris and elsewhere, world leaders talk about reducing carbon emissions, but they still haven't agreed on how to make it happen. That's why it's important to educate children to protect our beautiful planet, because they will inherit it," he says.



P Raghuthama Rao

The books are titled 'Earth, Sky & Space' and 'Sky, Space & Outer Space'. They feature Abdul Kalam as the narrator, "who visits schools and answers children's questions". His explanations are supported by photographs sourced from NASA, ISRO and BBC, along with detailed captions. "Nearly 80% of the content consists of photographs and sketches," Rao says.

The focus of the first book is on the diversity of life on Earth, from deserts to mountains and the North and South Poles, and the threats these ecosystems face. "At the end of the book, children take a pledge not to use plastic, and to only use green energy," he shares.

In the second book, the focus shifts to outer space. It traces the history of flying, satellite launches, and highlights India's efforts in using satellites to deliver telemedicine and tele-education, among others.

Rao began his career in the rocket engineering division of Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station. Kalam was the head of his division. Rao retired as Scientist G grade from Bengaluru's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, which functions under ISRO.

The books, priced at Rs 250 and Rs 200, are published by Vasantha Prakashana.

Launch on October 23, 11 am, at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road; entry free. To order the books, write to vasantha_prakashana@yahoo.com or call 78921 06719.

CITY MIX

Book launch

Champaca bookstore will host the launch and book discussion of Mani Rao's latest works – 'Kalidasa: Selected Poetry and Drama' (translated to English by Mani) and 'So That You Know'.

While the former paints a picture of life in ancient India, its royal courts, and the romance and drama associated with them, the latter features Mani's original poems.

Mani, a poet, translator and scholar, will be in conversation with Dharini Bhaskar, a novelist.

October 30, 6.30 pm. At Champaca Bookstore, Indiranagar.

Play on love

The Museum of Art and Photography will stage the play 'Love Letters: Ninna Preetiya Naanu'. The Kannada play revolves around a life-long connection between two people.

It spans decades and looks at various facets of their relationship which is described as 'friendship and almost love'.

A major theme of the play is handwritten letters or notes about the protagonists' feelings for each other.

The narrative examines a lifetime of missed chances and what their lives could have been if circumstances were different.

The play is being staged on the sidelines of the exhibition 'Shape of a Thought: Letter from Ram Kumar', which concludes on October 26.

October 25, 5 pm. For details, visit map-india.org

Confluence of classical dances on Oct 31

Aloka, a confluence of classical dance traditions, will be staged at Shoonya – Centre for Art and Somatic Practices, Sudhama Nagar, on October 31 at 7.30 pm.

'Aloka' means light, illumination, and vision — symbols of truth and goodness. The concept draws on the interplay between good and evil, reminding viewers that where light shines, darkness fades.

The 90-minute production features Aishwarya Vikraman, Karishma Ahuja, and Priyakshee Kataky, who come together to explore three beautiful dance forms — Mohiniyattam, Odissi, and Sattriya — through movement, rhythm, and expression. This production is curated by the creative minds of Aangan, a creative space.

For details, visit @shoonyaspace on Instagram. Tickets available online.

Five-day Ranga Shankara festival opens on Friday

It will feature plays on sexual abuse, caste inequality and love

TEAM METROLIFE

Caste prejudice, life after death and uncomfortable truths are some of the themes that will be explored during Ranga Shankara's annual theatre festival, which kicks off on October 24.

Currently in its 21st edition, the festival will feature five plays, staged over five days — October 24-26, and October 31 and November 1. "There is no specific theme because we did not want to restrict ourselves while curating the festival. We wanted each play to be unique and picked plays that would otherwise be difficult to bring to Bengaluru. We chose cutting-edge productions, plays by young directors who take more risks and plays that have an offbeat way of storytelling," says Arundhati Nag, founder, adding, "These stories hit you in the gut."

'Kavan, an Ambedkarite Opera', is the first play in the line-up. The Hindi play is directed by Abhishek Majumdar and seeks to capture the India of today — one that is rapidly changing. It addresses the question of what the common man does when lines between right and wrong, sacred and profane, and personal and universal are blurred. The protagonist, Bejul, navigates life with all its ups and downs against the backdrop of caste discrimination.

On the last day of the festival, November 1, Bangalore Theatre Collective will stage the premiere show of 'Kattale Neralu' directed by Venkatesh Prasad. The Kannada production, an adaptation of the play 'Blackbird' by Scottish playwright David Harrower, is based on the physical relationship between a man and a girl 28 years his junior. "It also tackles themes like trust, betrayal and coming to terms with the past," Arundhati shares.

The other plays in the lineup include 'Something Like Truth' (Hindi and English), 'Aakhirkaar' (Hindi, English and Punjabi) and 'Naam Mein ka Rakhwo Hai?' (Hindi and gibberish). "For the rest of the year, we ensure our programming is 70% Kannada. During the festival, we wanted to give equal space to plays in other languages," she explains.

October 24, 25, 26, 31 and November 1. At Ranga Shankara, J P Nagar. Tickets available online.

'Kavan, an Ambedkarite Opera' tackles issues of caste inequality.

Vinay Tiwari in 'Abhadra'.

Bharatanatyam meets Bhojpuri this weekend

Vinay Tiwari, from Uttar Pradesh, will present a Bharatanatyam production in Bhojpuri, titled 'Abhadra'. The work explores themes of migration, poverty, and the "gradual erosion of cultural identity among Bhojpuri-speaking communities".

"'Abhadra' is my attempt to question why people from the Bhojpuri region have distanced themselves from their language and culture," explains Tiwari.

He recalls how in the past, when he spoke to people from Bihar in Bhojpuri, "they often replied in Hindi, almost embarrassed to use their mother tongue". "That made me realise how deeply societal perceptions have impacted their self-worth," says Tiwari.

'Abhadra' interlaces Bharatanatyam with Bhojpuri folk songs such as 'Sohar' (sung during childbirth) and 'Bidesiya' (songs of separation and migration). The production narrates the journey of a mother praying to the goddess of prosperity, a young woman facing separation from her husband, and a migrant worker struggling to find dignity in the city, he says.

'Abhadra' will be performed on October 23, 7 pm at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur; October 24, 7 pm at Courtyard Koota, Kengeri; and October 26, 7. 30 pm at Medai, Koramangala. For details, check @vinaytiwari_____ on Instagram.

Education dept detects 'serious lapses' in school where boy was beaten with PVC pipe

Principal and teacher may be dismissed

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The private school where a class 5 boy was allegedly beaten black and blue with a PVC pipe by the principal and locked up in a room over irregular attendance has been found to have serious safety and administrative lapses, according to an education department official.

The incident was reported at the school located on Magadi Road, on the city's southwestern outskirts, on October 14.

Block Education Officer (North) Tharanath, who inspected the school after police registered an FIR over the assault, said he found serious lapses in safety and administration.

"I was informed about the FIR and visited the school on Saturday. During my visit, I collected written statements regarding the incident where the boy was brutally assaulted and locked up in a room until 7.20 pm on October 14," Tharanath told *DH*.

He said the school management had ignored several safety measures, including the absence of fire safety protocols, missing grills on a four-storey building and the absence of a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the Fire Department.

"These violations have been mentioned in my report, which will be sent to the Deputy Director of Public Instruction (DDPI) on Thursday for appropriate action against the school management," Tharanath added.

> **THARANATH**
> Block Education Officer (North)
> "I was informed about the FIR and visited the school on Saturday. During my visit, I collected written statements regarding the incident where the boy was brutally assaulted and locked up in a room until 7.20 pm on October 14.

Meanwhile, Vijay Kumar, the school owner, said the management had decided to terminate the principal, Rakesh Kumar, and teacher Chandrika over the assault.

"I had asked both of them to resign on Monday, but they cited personal reasons for the delay. I will terminate them after a management meeting in a couple of days," he told *DH*.

The Kamakshipalya police, however, also named Vijay Kumar in the FIR for failing to act when the boy's family initially complained about the incident.

Owner under scrutiny

According to the complaint, Vijay Kumar allegedly warned the boy's mother, Divya Shankar, against revealing the matter and advised her to collect a transfer certificate instead.

The boy is reportedly in deep shock following the incident. "He suddenly starts screaming during the day and night, and complains of chest pain," his father Shankar said.

Live-in couple ends life in Jigani

BENGALURU, DHNS: A couple living together died by suicide at Jigani near Anekal on Wednesday.

The deceased have been identified as Seema Nayak (25) and Rakesh Nayak (23), both natives of Odisha, who were living in a rented house in Kallubalu village, Jigani. Rakesh worked for a security service firm, while Seema was employed at a supermarket.

A senior police officer said they suspect the couple died two days ago. As the house remained locked for several days, neighbours grew suspicious and broke open a window, only to find the couple dead inside. They immediately alerted the Jigani police, and the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team conducted an inspection.

Police said the couple were living with Seema's friend, who left the house on Friday after witnessing a quarrel between them. Seema was reportedly upset over Rakesh's alcohol addiction. Rakesh is said to have hanged himself, and when Seema found him dead, she tried to rescue him but later ended her life.

The bodies were sent for postmortem, and police are awaiting the arrival of the parents to proceed with further investigation.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

RELIGIOUS

Deepavali special gau puja: MP Tejasvi Surya to attend; Sriramashram, Girinagar; 5 pm.

'Girija Kalyana': Religious discourse; Vyasaraja Mutt, Subramanya Nagar, Rajajinagar; 7 pm.

TOMORROW EVENTS

S.V.R @50 Film Festival: HD Kumaraswamy to attend; Kannada Film Chamber of Commerce; Dr Rajkumar Bhavan, Karnataka Artists Association, Chamarajpet; 10 am.

Kittur Rani Channamma Jayanti: Siddaramaiah to inaugurate; DK Shivakumar to attend; Department of Kannada and Culture; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 11 am.

Book launch: Children's books by P Raghotam Rao; Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road; 11 am.

Foundation Day celebrations: 'Dr. S.R.C. Memorial' Award Presentation; Minister KJ George to attend; Dr SR Chandrashekhar Institute of Speech and Hearing; India Campus Crusade for Christ, Hennur Main Road, St Thomas Town; 3.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	26.0°C
Minimum	21.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	89%
Sunset (Oct 22)	5:58 pm
Sunrise (Oct 23)	6:11 am
Moonrise	5:50 am
Moonset	5:45 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

DKS: 500 km of city roads to be white-topped at Rs 4,000 crore

To offer 'bumper compensation' to farmers affected by land acquisition

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launches road development projects in Gandhinagar constituency on Tuesday. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao, among others, are present. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday said the state government is preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to white-top 500 km of Bengaluru's roads at an estimated cost of Rs 4,000 crore.

Speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony for roadworks in the Gandhinagar assembly constituency, he detailed the broader infrastructure plans for the city.

Shivakumar said white-topping increases road durability, with such stretches lasting 25 to 30 years.

Among the current and planned works are the already completed white-topping of 148 km of roads, the development of 83 roads at a cost of Rs 1,800 crore, and the black-topping of 182 roads (underway) covering 350 km at a cost of Rs 695 crore. This apart, a new grant of Rs 1,100 crore has been sanctioned by the chief minister to asphalt 550 km of roads.

Other plans

The deputy chief minister also spoke of plans to build a 117 km-long Bengaluru Business Corridor and 113 km of elevated corridors, with the first phase comprising a 40-km tunnel road.

To assist farmers affected by land acquisition, the government has decided to offer "bumper compensation" — three times the regular compensation, along with Transferable Development Rights (TDR) or additional Floor Area Ratio (FAR) — though there is no such provision under the BDA Act.

Shivakumar recalled his unanswered request to the Prime Minister for Rs 1.5 lakh crore for the city's development, made during the inauguration of Namma Metro's Yellow Line.

At Tuesday's event, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launched road development and modernisation works in the Gandhinagar constituency, focusing on the historic Chickpet area.

Fill all potholes with one layer of tar within a week, CM directs GBA chief

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday directed Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao to ensure that "all potholes should be filled, and one layer of tar should be laid in a week".

He gave the instruction from the stage during the gudli puja (ground-breaking ceremony) for the modernisation and white-topping of eight roads in the Gandhinagar assembly constituency, located in the city's historic Pete areas.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Health Minister and local MLA Dinesh Gundu Rao were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Siddaramaiah highlighted the area's historical significance. "The streets here, which were market streets during Kempegowda's time, still retain the character of that era," he said.

He reiterated the government's commitment to providing "abundant funds" for Bengaluru's development, citing the city's rapid population growth.

The chief minister also took a swipe at the Centre over funding and taxation, claiming that 87% of the funds for the Bengaluru Metro come from the state's taxpayers.

He criticised the Centre's handling of the GST, alleging that Karnataka and its people had lost Rs 15,000 crore due to recent revisions. He also questioned the prime minister's announcement of a "Diwali gift", saying it was money "extorted... after implementing GST".

Project details

- White-topping of **5.57 km** of roads in the Gandhinagar constituency, costing **Rs 58.44 crore**, is slated for completion in 11 months.

Stretches include:

BT Street, Rangaswamy Temple Street, Sultanpet Main Road, Kilari Road, Hospital Road, BMTC Road (Dhanavantri Road to Gubbi Thotadappa Road), Tank Bund Road, Race Course Road (Maurya Junction to Hare Krishna Junction)

- The project includes a **2.7-metre-wide**, white-topped carriageway and installation of essential utilities such as stormwater drains, power ducts, OFC ducts, water supply lines, sewer lines, and parking bays.

City's air quality 98% better than last Deepavali, says KSPCB

But noise pollution is higher than usual

BENGALURU, DHNS

As Bengaluru celebrated the second day of Deepavali, the city's Air Quality Index (AQI) was 98% better than last Deepavali and 7% lower than a normal day, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) said.

However, there was a notable rise in noise pollution compared to last year.

Monitoring stations at Majestic and Mysuru Road reported AQI levels of 104 and 109, respectively. On the first day of Deepavali last year, AQI levels in Hebbal had touched 263, Hombegowda Nagar 121, Silk Board Junction 170, Mysuru Road 122, and Jayanagar 136.

Peenya saw a 52% increase in air pollution compared to pre-Deepavali levels, while Hoskote and Dasarahalli also recorded higher readings. In contrast, AQI showed improvement at stations in Mysuru Road, Hombegowda Nagar, Jayanagar, Hebbal and Silk Board Junction.

Officials attributed the improved air quality to reduced traffic congestion, as many residents travelled out of Bengaluru to celebrate Deepavali in their hometowns.

A senior KSPCB official said air pollution levels were expected to rise as people continued to burst firecrackers on Tuesday night and Wednesday.

AQI levels above 100 are considered unsafe and can cause breathing discomfort among persons with lung or heart ailments, as well as among children and older adults.

Over 90 cracker-related eye injuries reported in B'luru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Despite repeated awareness drives and restrictions on fireworks, hospitals across Bengaluru have reported a rise in eye-related firecracker injuries, with the number of cases crossing 90.

By Tuesday afternoon, Narayana Nethralaya alone had reported 51 eye injuries, six of which required surgery. Among the victims were 20 adults and 31 children, including bystanders and those injured while lighting fireworks.

Dr Naren Shetty, Head of Cataract and Refractive Lens Services at Narayana Nethralaya, said, "Three severe cases have been reported and 60% of the injuries are of children. Precautions are necessary." He urged parents to closely supervise children while bursting crackers, noting that lack of guidance leads to most accidents.

Sankara Eye Hospital reported 13 cases, with one patient requiring surgery. Eight adults and five children were injured. Nethradhama Eye Hospital reported 12 cases, including nine children and three adults, mostly due to poor safety measures.

Minto Ophthalmic Hospital recorded 17 eye injury cases — seven children and 10 adults. Four were classified as grievous, causing partial loss of vision.

Bijli crackers, flower pots, and atom bombs were the main causes of injuries, doctors said.

31 cases booked against illegal cracker vendors

The Bengaluru police have registered 31 cases against illegal firecracker vendors across the city. They seized 1,200 cracker boxes worth Rs 4 lakh during raids on October 18, 19, and 20.

Surgeon confesses to killing wife with anaesthetic: Police

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

Nearly five days after interrogation, the Bengaluru surgeon accused of murdering his dermatologist wife has confessed to procuring the controlled anaesthetic drug propofol and injecting it into her, leading to her death, police sources told *DH*.

Kruthika

Mahendra

On October 14, Marathahalli police arrested Dr Mahendra Reddy GS, 31, from Manipal. He was booked for murdering his wife, Dr Kruthika M Reddy (29), by administering propofol in multiple doses between April 21 and 24.

Kruthika died on April 24. Police arrested Mahendra nearly six months later, after a forensic report confirmed the presence of propofol in several of her organs.

Mahendra, in police custody until October 23, is being interrogated by a team led by Marathahalli police inspector Anil Kumar.

"The suspect has confessed that he procured the controlled anaesthetic substance propofol and injected it into his wife through the intravenous (IV) method, leading to her death," sources said.

Police suspect Mahendra may have sourced the drug using his medical credentials, but have yet to confirm this. "Mahendra has yet to reveal the motive for murdering his wife. Once he reveals that, things will be clearer," the sources added.

Police have not ruled out allegations made by Kruthika's family that Mahendra had a relationship with another woman, which allegedly continued even after the marriage.

DH had earlier reported that Mahendra, during the initial rounds of interrogation, denied administering the drug and remained silent.

Kruthika's family had also alleged that Mahendra misused his professional access to the operation theatre and ICU facilities at Victoria Hospital, where he worked, to procure and administer the drug. Police have not yet confirmed this claim.

HC dismisses man's divorce appeal, says he wanted 'obedient maid'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka dismissed an appeal filed by a man seeking divorce on cruelty grounds, observing that "marriage is not a child's play".

The man moved the high court challenging the family court order in Bengaluru, which dismissed his petition stating his wife proved he and his mother were frustrated for not getting much dowry or property from her.

The couple — the husband working in USA and the wife in Singapore — met through a matrimonial website and got married in August 2015. They lived together for 10 days.

In 2016, the husband filed a petition for divorce under Section 13(1) (i-a) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, citing cruelty. On January 10, 2020, the Additional Principal Judge, Family Court, Bengaluru, dismissed his petition.

In his appeal, the husband contended that after living together for 10 days, the wife left for Singapore and refused to join him in USA. All conciliation efforts failed.

The wife argued that the mother-in-law's intervention prevented her from leading a marital life or joining her husband in the US, despite her intention to do so. She submitted that the husband neither made arrangements nor applied to authorities to get a visa for her to join him in the US.

After perusing the cross-examination before the family court, the division bench said it was not established during marriage talks about an agreement that she would resign from her job and join the husband in the US after marriage.

"...it is evident that the petitioner (husband) was in need of an obedient and sincere maid rather than a wife. He appears to be expecting too much from his life partner that she should do each and every act in tune with his whims and fancies. Even to wear gold ornaments, she had to seek his permission. It appears, in view of his dominating mentality, she was unable to lead a happy marital life," the bench said.

The court further said: "Marriage is not a child's play. In matrimonial life, both husband and wife have to compromise and adjust with each other, so as to lead a normal marital life.

"In the present case, due to the petitioner's unwillingness to compromise or adjust, he was unable to continue the marital relationship with the respondent. The learned trial judge has discussed the evidence in detail and has rightly arrived at the conclusion.

"Moreover, as already stated above, even a plain reading of the petition reveals that the petitioner raised trivial issues, which could have been resolved through mutual discussion and understanding. However, neither the petitioner nor his family members made any effort to do so.

"The petitioner chose to blame his wife for these minor issues and alleged that he was subjected to cruelty, seeking divorce on that ground. He was unable to prove the same before the trial court. The trial court rightly dismissed the petition filed for the divorce."

WINNING HEARTS ONLINE

Expat bitten by stray dogs says 'I still love Bengaluru'

Game developer Oliver Jones shared this post on X after being bitten by dogs on Sunday.

BENGALURU, DHNS

Oliver Jones, a Welsh game designer and entrepreneur, has said he "still loves Bengaluru" despite being attacked by stray dogs while out for a run near Old Airport Road on Sunday.

Two dogs followed him for 100 metres as he was running around Old Airport Road.

One caught up to him at the old airport entrance and "took a chunk of my ankle", he recounted.

The incident came just a week after his wife narrowly escaped a similar attack during an evening run, prompting him to switch to daytime jogging.

His post on X recounting the attack went viral, garnering over 6.4 lakh views, 625 reposts, and 300 comments.

He shared a hospital photo with a caption that read, "I love stray dogs. Especially the ones who join me on my runs in Bangalore."

The post sparked mixed reactions — while some offered medical advice on rabies vaccination, others questioned why he continued to stay in India.

In response, Jones said he was "willing to go all the way" for what he believes in, especially considering he built two startups worth $100 million in Bengaluru, "after landing in a new country with only $300".

He said the incident would not change his affection for Bengaluru or its people. "It's not me against the world — I now have a community backing me," he said.

Several X users highlighted that the incident underscores the city's growing stray dog menace, noting that a foreign national's bite could spark greater awareness to the problem. Some others shared similar experiences of being chased or bitten.

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

EOI (NOTICE NO. 43 of 2025); Date: 21-10-2025

Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) Open Line is inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) from Indian consulting agencies for Architectural Consultancy service for preparation of Detail Architectural and Structural drawings and final BOQ for Construction of B1+B2+G+12 storey IT-HUB at Paltan Bazar, N.F. Railway, Guwahati, Assam.

EOI Document submission Start Date : 28.10.2025 From 10:00 Hrs;
EOI Document submission End Date : 20.11.2025 Upto 15:00 Hrs.
EOI Document Opening Date : 20.11.2025 At 15:30 Hrs.

The EOI Document containing the detailed scope of work, terms & conditions and application form can be downloaded from https://nfr.indianrailways.gov.in.

Further details, if any, may be obtained from Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Lumding, Northeast Frontier Railway, Lumding-782447, Hojai, Assam.

Divisional Engineer/Guwahati, Maligaon

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Sand mafia: CM's aide flags 'high corruption', gives BJP fresh ammo

'100-150 trucks of sand, gravel transported daily from banks of Tungabhadra river'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's economic advisor Basavaraj Rayareddi's letter on "high corruption" involving "sand mafia" has given the Opposition BJP fresh ammunition to attack the Congress.

On October 18, Rayareddi wrote to Siddaramaiah, seeking "immediate transfer" of officials in the mines & geology department who, he charged, were in cahoots with the 'sand mafia'.

According to Rayareddi, his Koppal district has an 85-km-long Tungabhadra river bank where large amounts of sand gets accumulated naturally.

"Every day, 100-150 trucks of sand and gravel are illegally transported from Koppal to the cities of Ballari, Hubballi, Dharwad, Chitradurga and Bengaluru. This is causing huge losses in royalty. There's huge corruption with the involvement of officials," he stated, adding that more than 200 people were involved in this 'sand mafia' in the district.

Besides naming officials, Rayareddi has asked Siddaramaiah to form a special task force under the Koppal deputy commissioner to fight the mafia.

"What more proof does Karnataka need to see how deeply corruption has eaten into the Congress government? When even the CM's own economic adviser admits that a mafia–official nexus is looting the state's natural wealth, it exposes the rot within CM Siddaramaiah's administration," BJP state president B Y Vijayendra said in a post on X.

"Corruption has become the norm, and development has taken a backseat. Instead of cleaning up the mess, those in power have become a part of it. If the rot runs this deep in one sector, what must be happening in others?" Vijayendra said.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka credited Rayareddi with blowing the lid off the sand mafia.

"After bankrupting Karnataka with unplanned and unscientific guarantees and openly admitting corruption, now the state itself is being plundered by a mafia-official nexus while the government watches," he said.

"If the CM's own advisor knows all this, why hasn't any action been taken?," he said in a post on X.

Congress doing 'tax chori' in Bengaluru: BJP

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka has accused the Congress government of "tax chori" in Bengaluru. This is a play on the Congress' "vote chori" campaign against the BJP. "Mr Rahul Gandhi, Bengaluru has a new slogan: 'Congress Tax Chor Hai'," Ashoka said in a tweet. He said the Congress is not building roads and fixing drains for the amount of taxes it collects in Bengaluru. "Bengaluru deserves action, not excuses and intimidation," he said.

Siddu lauds police for 'curbing immoral policing'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday heaped praises on the police for curtailing "unconstitutional and immoral policing" which he described as a major hindrance to the state's dignity and progress.

Speaking at the Police Commemoration Day, where he offered his condolences to martyred police officers and personnel, Siddaramaiah asserted that the credit for this positive shift should go to the police department.

"The state can develop only if the police maintain peace and order," he stated. "It is a good thing that immoral policing has been curbed. Similarly, the drug menace has also seen a check, which needs to be managed more effectively. The credit for this achievement must go to the police department."

The chief minister announced the operationalisation of Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE) police stations across the state.

He called upon the department to work effectively through these stations to protect constitutional rights and values, particularly to prevent atrocities against members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He highlighted that police personnel hold a significant responsibility in protecting the rights granted to the people by the Constitution and suppressing communal and evil forces.

Karnataka State Reserve Police personnel pay tributes to the martyred policemen at the Police Commemoration Day programme on the premises of City Armed Reserve Force on Mysuru Road in Bengaluru on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/ RANJU P

Welfare measures for police

Orders have been issued for compassionate appointments to 116 people whose family members died in service.
The medical reimbursement limit under the retired police health scheme has been significantly increased from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.50 lakh per year.
The health check-up fee provided for all police personnel has been raised from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500.

Tribute to the fallen

Paying a solemn tribute to those who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, the CM noted that 191 personnel across the country, including eight from Karnataka, had lost their lives over the past year.

"Their sacrifice and dedication cannot be put at a price. It is everyone's duty to remember and pay tribute to them," he said.

Women's delegation seeks action on alleged Dharmasthala murders

BENGALURU, DHNS

An all-women's delegation consisting of writers, filmmakers, activists and scholars met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday with a set of demands in connection with alleged mass murders in Dharmasthala being probed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Primarily, the delegation demanded the protection of SIT's independence in the Dharmasthala investigation, re-investigation of past cases and deaths of witnesses, "especially cases, like Soujanya, Padmalatha and Yamuna/Narayana, where the killers were identified and investigated but the cases were closed".

The other demands were: action against negligent officials, establish an independent support group to ensure gender justice and accountability, protection for complainants and witnesses, strict action against those obstructing investigations, long-term measures to expedite the implementation of the Ugrappa Committee report and to proceed with the implementation of the Verma Committee report, implement appropriate and strict security measures for women's safety, form internal committees in religious institutions of all faiths and healthy sex education.

The government in July formed the SIT headed by Director General of Police (DGP) Pronab Mohanty after a witness alleged that between 1995 and 2014, he was forced to bury several bodies, mainly of young women, some even minors, who appeared to have been sexually assaulted and murdered, at the popular pilgrimage town located on the banks of the Nethravathi River in Dakshina Kannada.

The SIT later arrested him on charges of perjury.

'Cong targeting RSS to divert focus from govt's failure'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna on Tuesday said that Congress leaders in the state were talking of restricting the activities of the RSS, only to divert attention from the state government's failure to improve infrastructure in Bengaluru and curb corruption.

"The RSS will exist as long as the sun and moon exist. As long as the Hindu nation exists, RSS will remain and they know this truth," he told reporters.

Somanna claimed that even Congress leaders' children will become RSS supporters in future. He urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar to focus on the state's development, instead of such dramas. "On what basis is the government going to restrict RSS activities," the minister asked.

Disappearing grasslands push four Indian birds to threatened list

CHIRANJEEVI KULAKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Four birds that were once abundant in India, including Karnataka's state bird Indian Roller (Neelakanth), have been listed as threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), taking the total threatened birds in India to 93, thanks to habitat destruction.

The latest updates to the list of species threatened with extinction was released on October 10 in Abu Dhabi, which is hosting the IUCN World Conservation Congress. This includes data published on a total of 1,605 species of birds, terrestrial and marine animals in India, including some endemic species.

Among the assessed were 12 birds seen in India. The IUCN found eight of them to be doing well and tagged them as 'least concern'.

However, it dialled up the concern ('nearly threatened') on four of the birds, including three birds for which concerns were flagged by the State of India Birds (SOIB) along with hard data.

The Indian Roller's habitat is spread from Sri Lanka in the south to Iran in the west, Bangladesh in the east and Kashmir in the north. According to SOIB, a whopping 39.98% decline in bird abundance has been noticed in India during the long term. In Karnataka, the decline was about 33.5%.

GOPINATHAN MAHESWARAN
Senior scientist, Zoological Survey of India

"A national red-list is essential for India - it allows us to evaluate threats and trends within our own ecological and socio-economic context. The IUCN list gives us a global view, but national assessments can drive region-specific conservation actions and policy responses like the case of black-necked stork, a declining species in India, but globally stable.

The Indian Courser has seen the steepest fall at a shocking 76.5% decline. From north Karnataka to Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, the bird inhabits a sizable part of the country. The damage to the open natural ecosystem, including grazing lands, is seen as the main reason for the decline.

The Rufous-tailed Lark, also once common to Karnataka, has seen a rapid decline of 66.7% in India. The long-billed grasshopper-warbler, native to the shrubland of the Himalayas, has seen a continuing decline in the area.

All four species that have been uplisted depend on open natural ecosystems. These ecosystems have been under pressure from the expansion of power infrastructure, intensification of agriculture, invasive species and misguided afforestation programmes.

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I SHILPA S W/o Sri Purushotham S aged about 38 years residing at 43 near Govt. High School Melenallasandra Jigani Bangalore 560105 have changed my Son's Name HARSHITH. P to HARSHITH .P KASHYAP vide affidavit dated 17/10/2025 sworn before notary Devika kumari A Bangalore.....
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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public are hereby informed that my client has entered into an agreement for purchase of the Immovable Property described in the Schedule hereunder from the owner SRI. A.N. PRAKASH, S/o. Late Sri. Late Nagaraju, aged about 54 years, residing at No.51, Dwarakamayi, 3rd Cross, Manjunathnagar, Kanakapura Main Road, Ragghuvanahalli, Bengaluru-560062. Any person/s having any claim/rights/interest in the said property or any objections for said sale of the property, may file their objections in writing, along with supporting documents, addressed to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which, it shall be construed that there are no claims of any sort over the said property and my client/s shall be advised to proceed with the purchase.
SCHEDULE
ALL THAT Piece and Parcel of the Agricultural Land situated at Ammanapura Village, Kailancha-1 Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk & District & land details mentioned below:-

Survey #	Extent	Boundary East	West	North	South
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18/2 (Old Sy.No.18)	1 Acre 20 Guntas	Land belongs to Hombalaiah	Land belongs to Lingaiah & Chikkakunnaiah	Land belongs to A.N. Prakash	Land belongs to Dasegowda
18/4 (Old Sy.No.18, later 18/3)	1 Acre 20 Guntas	Land belongs to Hombalaiah & Sarvamangala	Land belongs to Lingaiah & Chikkakunnaiah	Land belongs to A.N. Prakash	Land belongs to Dasegowda

Place : Bengaluru
Date: 22.10.2025
Mr. K.B. Thippe Swamy, Advocate, #22, LS-25, 1st Floor, SSB Mattada Complex, Tank Bund Road, Bengaluru-560009.

MOVIE R | E | V | I | E | W

Rashmika outshines Ayushmann in vampire comedy

PRANATI A S

Producer Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Horror Comedy Universe (MHCU) gets a new instalment, and this time, it explores the dark world of vampires.

After a staged horror story badly fails, TV reporter Alok Goyal (Ayushmann Khurrana) goes on an expedition to the mountains looking for a real paranormal scoop. Attacked by a bear, he runs for his life, only to be saved by Tadaka (a striking Rashmika Mandanna). She is a betaal — a vampire-like creature, not the Betaal from India's favourite Vikram aur Betaal comic book series.

Captivated by Alok's heartbeat, Tadaka takes a liking to him. And he, in turn, is smitten by her beauty. Soon, Alok's simple life becomes entangled in a web of supernatural events.

As with all star-crossed lovers, the two must defy the laws — legal and cultural — to be together, or sacrifice themselves for love.

One such act by Tadaka brings them face to face with Yakshasan (Nawazuddin Siddiqui) — the betaal clan's vengeful ancestor, imprisoned for 75 years for breaking their foremost rule: abstaining from human blood.

If meat-eaters are an object of contempt in the real world, human-blood drinkers get that place in the vampire world. The betaals have an interesting reason why they must abstain from human blood — and it is spot on!

Thamma intelligently uses cultural and linguistic quirks. For example, it uses the 'ra' and 'da' sounds interchangeably, as some Hindi speakers do.

When Tadaka comes to live with Alok in the city, she tells his parents her name is Tadaka. They are shocked that she is named after a mythical demon. Alok is quick to say, "It's actually Tarika." However, the humour doesn't always land.

The attempt at creating a comic villain falls flat. Yakshasan, despite Nawaz's acting potential, ends up being underwhelming.

As the innocent yet fierce Tadaka, Rashmika effortlessly outshines Ayushmann. She excels even in the action scenes.

Her character arc had enough potential to carry the film, but the male lead gets to steer the narrative.

Drawing from Indian myths, legends, history, and folklore, *Thamma* offers a fare of comedy, romance, horror, and family drama. It also has two item songs intended to make it a Deepavali entertainer. However, Stree and *Stree 2* remain the best of the MHCU.

As the innocent yet fierce Tadaka, Rashmika effortlessly outshines Ayushmann in 'Thamma'. She excels even in the action scenes.

★★½☆☆

Thamma
Hindi (Theatres)
Director: Aditya Sarpotdar
Cast: Rashmika Mandanna, Ayushmann Khurrana, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Paresh Rawal

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Three of a family drown in lake in Tumakuru

HULIYAR (TUMAKURU DIST), DHNS: In a tragic incident, three members of a family drowned in a lake in Yarekatte near Huliyar in Tumakuru district on Tuesday evening.

All the three victims – Venkatesh (47), his daughter Shravya (12) aand 11-year-old grand-niece Punya – were residents of Yarekatte village. Punya and Shravya, along with another girl, had gone near the lake to answer a call of nature. Punya and Shravya then edged closer to the lake to take a closer look at its waters, but slipped and fell into the lake. Taking fright, the girl who accompanied them rushed home and intimated the elders.

Venkatesh, along with another man, rushed to the lake to rescue the two girls, but he drowned along with them. Punya was rushed to the Huliyar hospital, where she breathed her last. A case was registered in connection with the incident at Handanakere police station.

Gau Puja at muzrai temples tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Muzrai Department in the state has directed all temples under its jurisdiction to offer puja to cows - Gau Puja - on Thursday on the occasion of Balipadyami.

In its circular, the department has emphasised the need to raise awareness about the religious significance of cows, besides stressing the need to revive the traditional practice of Gau Puja. Cows are to be given a bath, brought to temples, where they will be decked up with vermilion, turmeric and flowers, following which they will be offered rice, jaggery and other food, and then worshipped.

Online applications must for recognition renewal; schools oppose

Assn objects to mandatory submission of safety certificates

BENGALURU, DHNS

The department of school education and literacy has invited applications from private and aided schools for renewal of recognition (RR) for the next academic year.

The institutions are required to submit applications online. In a notification, the department has clearly said no physical applications will be entertained.

However, the private schools' association has raised objections to the mandatory submission of building safety, land conversion and fire safety certificates.

It has urged Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa to consider the documents submitted last year which are available online and grant RR by securing an undertaking.

"There is a case pending before the High Court regarding the renewal of RR for schools that commenced before 2017-18. We have demanded that they issue conditional RR after receiving an undertaking from schools," said D Shashikumar, general secretary of Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS).

Shashikumar said, in September 2024, chief secretary Shalini Rajneesh chaired an inter-departmental meeting to address issues raised by private schools on fire safety, building safety, etc.

"Following a meeting called by the chief secretary again in July 2025, additional chief secretary Tushar Girinath convened a meeting and decided to form a committee. He revised the earlier orders on fire and building safety, but nothing has been implemented yet," he said.

As mentioned by the association in the request submitted to the minister, the HC, on November 14, 2022, quashed the fire safety and building safety orders being made mandatory by the department for RR.

"The order clearly states that these rules be made mandatory only for schools which began functioning after 2018. However, the department has challenged this order and the case is still pending," reads the letter.

The Karnataka Education Act-1983 and the Karnataka Educational Institutions (Recognition of Primary and Secondary Schools) Rules-1999 mandate recognition and renewal of recognition. If any school functions without that, it is considered unauthorised.

Meanwhile, considering a request by Congress MLC Puttanna, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah issued a note to the principal secretary of the department on October 10, to form a committee to address the issues of private schools.

'Muslim appeasement' behind withdrawing cow slaughter cases, says Ashoka

Will go to court against this, says leader of Oppn

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka on Tuesday accused the ruling Congress of 'Muslim appeasement,' for withdrawing cases against 30 individuals who were booked for cow slaughter in Chittapur taluk, Kalaburagi district.

Ashoka told reporters here, "In Chittapur taluk, police had registered cases against 30 people involved in theft, transportation and slaughter of cows. District incharge Minister Priyank Kharge wrote a letter to the government requesting the release of the thieves and the cancellation of the criminal case. Accordingly, a decision was taken in the Cabinet meeting".

He was referring to the Cabinet's decision in September to withdraw these cases.

Ashoka's charge is a continuation of the verbal duel between Priyank, the IT/BT minister, and BJP leaders following the minister's letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in which Priyank sought a ban on RSS activities on government land.

"Whenever they raise the topic, Congress leaders talk about Mahatma Gandhi. If they allow cow slaughter, what kind of value are they giving to Gandhi? This is the culture of Muslim appeasement. If they (thieves) are released like this, they will again indulge in the same act. We will go to court against this. We will get victory in this too," Ashoka said.

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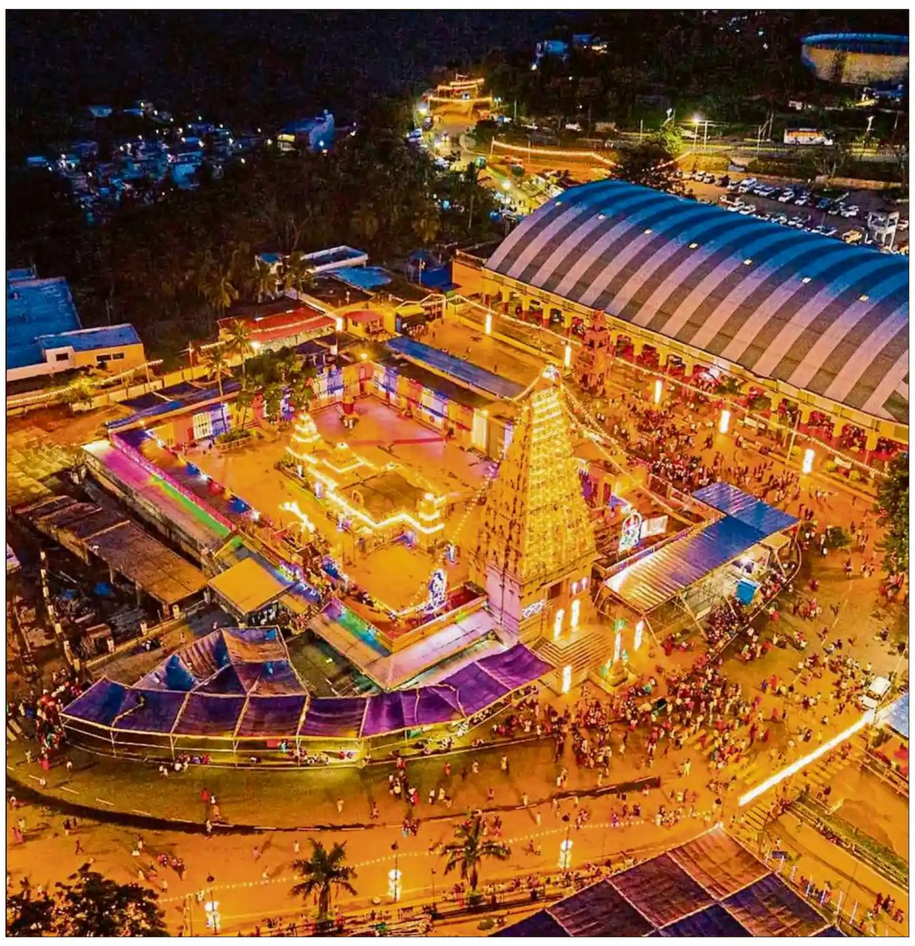


The festival of lights gives an added glow to the temple atop Male Mahadeshwara Hill in Hanur taluk of Chamarajanagar district on Tuesday. Thousands of devotees visit the pilgrimage town during the annual fair on the occasion of Deepavali.

Students frustrated with colleges withholding original documents

Institutions demanding huge sums from those leaving courses midway

BENGALURU, DHNS

Instances of degree colleges in the state refusing to hand over original documents to students leaving their respective institutions midway through the academic year have been brought to the attention of the Fee Regulatory Committee, which is now acting in the capacity of the Admission Overseeing Committee.

The departments of medical and higher education, besides universities the colleges are affiliated to, have warned colleges against withholding original documents. However, medical, dental and engineering colleges are stipulating that students pay the fee for the entirety of the course if they want their original documents.

Headed by Justice B Sreenivase Gowda, the committee has been successful in facilitating the return of original documents to students. A Master of Dental Science (MDS) student approached the committee alleging that KLE Society's Institute of Dental Sciences was asking for Rs 4 lakh to return his documents.

"When we summoned representatives of the college management, they told us that the institution would lose Rs 4 lakh if the student left the college since they would not be able to fill the vacant seat. However, we later learnt that the student had been compelled by financial problems to leave the college and take a job," the committee stated in its order.

The student had, however, managed to amass a sum of Rs 50,000. "We advised the college management to take the student's circumstances into account, and return the original documents after collecting Rs 50,000, which is what the college did," the committee said.

Two engineering colleges in Bengaluru too found themselves in the dock for refusing to hand over original documents to their students. "Cambridge Institute of Technology in Bengaluru was refusing to return the original documents of a student who was dropping out owing to poor health. Replying to a notice, the college said that the documents would be returned if the student came in person and submitted a medical certificate. The student subsequently did so, and got her original documents," the committee said.

Bangalore Institute of Technology, meanwhile, asked its student, who was leaving college to prepare for a competitive examination, to pay Rs 1.5 lakh for her documents. The student also alleged that the college had collected additional fees to the tune of Rs 28,000 during admission. "Following the committee's intervention, the college agreed to return the documents but demanded that the student come to the college in person. The student went to the college, and was able to get her documents back," said the committee.

The Fee Regulatory Committee has advised students to approach it should any of them face trouble over issues such as excess fee, withholding of documents, among others.

Government of India – Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, CBIC,
Office of the Principal Chief Commissioner of Central Tax, Bengaluru Zone
Email: bzpcco-legal@gov.in Ph: 080 22867468 Ext: 263

Applications for Appointment of Senior/Junior Standing Counsels for Indirect Taxation Matters.

Applications are invited from eligible advocates practicing in the High Court of Karnataka for appointment as **Senior Standing Counsel** and **Junior Standing Counsel** to handle indirect taxation litigation before the **High Court of Karnataka – Bengaluru Bench.**

Eligibility, qualifications, and terms of appointment are detailed in the CBIC guidelines dated 05.12.2007 and 14.09.2012 available on

https://gstkarnataka.gov.in/media/pdf/notifications/public-notices/2012-09-14_Appointment_of_Standing_Counsels_20251014_094607.pdf

or can be obtained **from any CGST or Customs Commissionerate of Bengaluru Zone.**

Last date to apply: 14.11.2025

Applications (3 copies) must be submitted in the prescribed format (Proforma-A or A1), along with enclosures, contact number and email ID.

Superscribe the envelope:

"Application for appointment of Senior Standing Counsel / Junior Standing Counsel / Both"

Send to: The Assistant Commissioner (Legal), Office of the Principal Chief Commissioner of Central Tax, C.R. Buildings, Queen's Road, Bengaluru – 560001.

Incomplete applications will be rejected.

Digitally signed by **Indira Priyadarshini A**
Additional Commissioner, PCCO, Bengaluru Zone

Date: 17.10.2025 17:28:43

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
Regd.Office: BMTC Complex, 3rd Floor, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027. India
Tender No.: BMRCL/2025-26/SE0027 Date: 21.10.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd., on behalf of Managing Director, invites Tender Number BMRCL/2025-26/SE0027 **for "Establishment, integration and Commissioning of On-Premises "Security Operation Center" (SOC) for IT & CCTV Network of Bangalore Metro Rail Project and Operation & Maintenance of SOC for 3 years after completion of Go Live".** The Tender document can be downloaded from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (e-Procurement Portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) from **21.10.2025.** Last Date and Time of submission of Tender is **24.11.2025, 15:00 hrs.** For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Additional General Manager (IT)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿ.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಲೋಇ/ಬಾವಿ/ಪಿಬಿ/ಕೆಡಬ್ಲು/2025–26/02597 ದಿನಾಂಕ:18–10–2025

–: ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ :–

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ ಕೆ/ಡಬ್ಲೂ–2 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ KPPP ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ವರ್ಕ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: **ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ: 26425 Call-2**

ಹಾಗೂ ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ:–

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ ಕೆ/ಡಬ್ಲೂ–1&2 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯ: ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: 02337 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–10–2025 ರಲ್ಲಿಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ವರ್ಕ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: **ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ: 27985**
SC:27884
CAT II(A):17883

ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.21.36 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.15.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅ)ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:30–10–2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4–00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ಬ)ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:31–10–2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ಕ)ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:03–11–2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ

ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿವರವಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ವೈಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.
DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-349/KSMCA/2025-26

KOLAR DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED.,KOLAR
[P.B No. 63, N.H-75, Huthur Post, Kolar – 563102. Karnataka]
(Ph.No 08152-282 310/350/331,7760964517,
E-Mail- komulpurchase@yahoo.com)

IFT No.KMU/PUR/E-PROCUREMENT/ 3693 /2025-26 Date: 18.10.2025

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Kolar Milk Union Limited, Kolar invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the supply of the following materials.

S.No.	Description of Material	Qty
01	Printing & Supply of Single Sheet Calendars to KOMUL for the Year – 2026	45,000 No's
02	Printing & Supply of Six Sheet Calendars to KOMUL for the Year-2026	8,670 No's
03	Printing & Supply of Diary's to KOMUL for the Year – 2026	3,395 No's

IFT No.KMU/PUR/E-PROCUREMENT/3694/2025-26 Date: 18.10.2025

S.No.	Description of Material	Qty
01	Supply of coding consumables to Products & UHT Division for the period of One Year to KOMUL	01 Lot

Access to E-tender Documents : **21.10.2025 to 04.11.2025 05.30 PM**
Last date for submission : **on or before 04.11.2025, 05.30 PM**
Date of opening of Tech. Tender : **06.11.2025, 11.00 AM onwards**
Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website **www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- M.D.KOMUL

Local economy push: Govt to identify high-impact projects

BENGALURU, DHNS

The government will identify "high-impact" and "short-term" projects that can be executed in the next three months to boost the state's economy, IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge has said.

Priyank held a meeting with Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh recently to discuss projects that can lift off under the Local Economy Accelerator Programme (LEAP).

Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd chairperson Sharath Bachegowda was also present.

Priyank said the government will evaluate "potential public-private partnership (PPP) brownfield projects" that can be implemented in the next 1-3 months.

"We discussed several sectors and explored ways to leverage existing infrastructure and resources for immediate implementation," Priyank said, adding that he suggested shortlisting "a few high-impact, short-term projects that can be taken up right away".

Priyank said the focus was on "moving quickly" and seeing that "ideas translate into tangible results" in the coming months.

The minister pointed out that the government has approved an IT park in Mangaluru, spread over 3.2 acres of land, which will be implemented on a PPP basis under LEAP.

"We want local economies (in the districts) to start contributing more," Priyank told *DH*.

"We can look at micro component manufacturing. There are sustainable startups that don't have common instrumentation facilities where they can come and build," Priyank said.

"We're also looking at changes in our marine policy. For example, ocean farming can be taken," he said.

The government has asked consultants EY, KPMG and Deloitte to identify projects that can be quickly grounded.

The mangled remains of a car that collided head-on with another car on national highway near Dalimb in Umerga taluk of Dharashiv district, Maharashtra, on Tuesday morning.

4 from Bidar killed in Maharashtra car crash

BASAVAKALYAN (BIDAR DISTRICT), DHNS: Four people from Bidar were killed on the spot and two others sustained injuries in a head-on collision between two cars on national highway near Dalimb in Umerga taluk of Dharashiv district, Maharashtra, on Tuesday morning.

The deceased have been identified as car driver Ratikant Maruthi Basagonda, 30, Sadanand Maruthi Basagonda, 19, Shivakumar Chidananda Vagge, 26, and Santhosh Bajarang Basagonda, 19, all residents of Kashampur (P) in Bidar taluk. The injured is Digambar Sangola.

The driver of another car, Lavanya Masoni from Solapur, was also injured in the accident. Both the injured have been admitted to a hospital in Umerga.

The deceased were returning after visiting the Mahalingaraya Jatra at Huljanti, Mangalwedha taluk of Maharashtra, when the car driven by Masoni and on the way to Solapur from Umerga rammed the car coming from opposite direction.

Such was impact that the vehicles were completely mangled and an earth mover was used to retrieve the bodies. A case is registered at Murum Rural police station.

Teacher held for 'thrashing, kicking' student

CHITRADURGA, DHNS: The police on Tuesday arrested Veeresh Hiremath, a teacher of Veerashaiva Agama Veda Samskruta Paathashale at Nayakanahalli in Challakere taluk, on the charge of kicking and thrashing a student. A video of the student begging the teacher not to thrash him, went viral on social media. The teacher got angry since the student had made a call to his grandmother from the mobile phone of a shopkeeper near the temple. The brutal act of the teacher had drawn widespread condemnation from the public.

Chitradurga Deputy Commissioner T Venkatesh said that the tahsildar has taken action and suspended the teacher after coming to know of the incident from the executive officer of the temple. He has been arrested and an FIR is filed against him, the DC said.

Now, Dalit Panthers, Bhim Army seek nod for rallies in Chittapur

KALABURAGI, DHNS: After the RSS sought permission to hold a "Route March" in Chittapur on November 2, Bheem Army and Dalit Panthers submitted petitions on Tuesday seeking permission to organise rallies on the same day.

This comes close on the heels of the Chittapur tahsildar denying permission to the RSS for the route march it had planned as part of its centenary celebrations on October 19. Incidentally, both the Dalit Panthers and Bhim Army too had planned rallies on that day, and were also denied permission.

Chief of the RSS's Kalaburagi chapter Ashok Patil petitioned the High Court after permission was denied for its route march. The High Court subsequently allowed the organisation to seek permission to conduct the route march on November 2.

Claiming that the actions and ideas of the RSS could negatively influence the minds of youngsters and even children, Dalit Panthers has sought permission to conduct a rally that will involve participants holding the Preamble to the Constitution in one hand and a blue flag in the other.

"Permission must not be given for the RSS's route march. If that is allowed, our organisation will also take out a rally with lathis and copies of the Constitution in our hands," reads Dalit Panthers' petition.

Bhim Army, meanwhile, has also asked for permission to take out a rally wherein the participants will carry the Tricolour, the Panchsheel flag of Buddhism, and a bamboo stick.

KMF sets record, sells 1,100 MT sweets during festive season

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) on Tuesday announced that it had made record-breaking sales of sweets during Dasara and Deepavali this year.

K Venkatesh, Minister of Animal Husbandry and Sericulture, told a media conference that this year, the KMF had sold over 1,100 metric tonnes of sweets with a total turnover of Rs 46 crore. In comparison to previous year's sales, a significant growth of 38% has been achieved.

KMF markets a wide range of dairy products including ghee, butter, paneer, sweets, milk powder, beverages and more than 175 varieties in total. Nandini products are also available in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Naidu, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Delhi, Assam and a few overseas markets.

India emerged as symbol of stability: Modi in letter to citizens

Says country has embarked on nextgen reforms in recent days

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that India has emerged as a symbol of both stability and sensitivity in a world that is going through multiple crises.

In his open letter to Indian citizens on the occasion of Deepavali, Modi touched upon the success of Operation Sindoor and the fight against Left Wing Extremism (LWE) as well as the rationalisation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure.

"I extend my heartfelt greetings to all of you on the auspicious occasion of Deepavali, a festival filled with energy and enthusiasm. This is the second Deepavali after the grand construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya," he said.

Modi said during Operation Sindoor, India not only upheld righteousness but also avenged injustice. "Lord Ram teaches righteousness, gives courage to fight injustice," he added.

He also mentioned that the Deepavali this year is special because for the first time, lamps would be lit in many districts where Naxalism has been eradicated.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice President C P Radhakrishnan offer prayers on the occasion of Deepavali in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI PHOTO

"In recent times, we have seen many individuals abandoning the path of violence and joining the mainstream of development, expressing faith in the Constitution of our country. This is a major achievement for the nation," the PM added.

Prime Minister Modi said that the country had also embarked on next-generation reforms in recent days.

"On the first day of Navratri, lower GST rates were implemented. During this 'GST Bachat Utsav', citizens are saving thousands of crores of rupees," he said.

"We are also on track to become the world's third-largest economy in the near future," PM Modi said.

Respect all languages

Urging people to prefer Swadeshi, the PM said, "Let us promote the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. Let us respect all languages. Let us maintain cleanliness. Let us prioritise our health. Let us reduce the use of oil in our food by 10% and embrace yoga. All these efforts will rapidly move us towards a Viksit Bharat."

"Deepavali also teaches us that when one lamp lights another, its light doesn't diminish but it grows further. With the same spirit, let us light lamps of harmony, cooperation and positivity in our society and surroundings this Deepavali," Modi said.

Keeladi inhabitants involved in animal husbandry: Report

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Inhabitants of Keeladi, a Sangam Era site near Madurai that is about 2,600 years old, primarily relied on cattle rearing and agriculture, with substantial evidence indicating that the society was deeply involved in animal husbandry, according to a new report by the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology (TNSDA).

Studies on pollen and Phytoliths by the French Institute of Pondicherry, the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow, and Deccan College, Pune, have shed light on the culinary habits, agricultural practices, domesticated animals, crops, wild animals, and the environment that prevailed during the Sangam Age.

The Sangam Age was pushed back by three centuries from what was previously believed in 2019, when carbon dating of artefacts unearthed at Keeladi indicated a date of 585 BCE.

Keeladi provides archaeological evidence of the literature-rich Sangam Age. The excavations, which began in 2014 by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), were taken over by the TNSDA in 2017. In total, 10 phases of digging have taken place in the village.

The report, written by renowned academic K Rajan and archaeologists R Sivananthan and V P Yathees Kumar, said the analysis of organic residues from grave goods at Konthagai, believed to be the burial site of Keeladi, provides significant insights into the food practices of ancient Tamils, who consumed meat as well as many greens and fruits.

The study, conducted by the Ancient DNA Lab established at Madurai Kamaraj University using Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS), found traces of cholesterol, indicating the processing of animal fat, and fatty acids, indicating the usage of plant and dairy-related products.

"The study identified a wide array of plant-based ingredients in use, including turmeric, coriander, ginger, garlic, cumin, tamarind, bottle gourd, bitter gourd, moringa, neem, various greens, banana, jujube, custard apple, and pomegranate. Additionally, evidence suggests the use of groundnut oil, coconut oil, and palm oil," the authors wrote.

Key food items identified include rice, black gram, millets (thinai and cholam), milk, and butter, while numerous date fruits were discovered in the offering pots and paddy grains were specifically found in burial urns, providing a glimpse into their dietary staples.

Metallurgical analysis of iron artefacts recovered from Keeladi by the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) and IIT Gandhinagar provides compelling evidence of advanced iron-working techniques that align with descriptions found in Sangam literature.

The development assumes significance as it comes close on the heels of findings that iron implements found at Sivagalai, located on the left bank of the Thamirabarani River, have been dated to 3345 BCE—making this the earliest known date for smelted iron not just in India, but anywhere in the world.

These dates have pushed the introduction of smelted iron in India back by over a millennium.

Metro planned to upcoming int'l sports complex...

Sports complex, From Page 1

The Housing Department has been tasked with preparing its its detailed project report (DPR).

Meanwhile, BMRCL expects to submit its feasibility report on the 72-km line to the state government by October-end. "Once approved, we will begin preparing the DPR," the official said.

The DPR process typically takes a year and requires clearances from both the state and the Centre, which could take up to two more years. If approvals come through, construction may begin by 2029 and take five to 10 years.

The corridor, comprising both underground and elevated stretches, will be a technically challenging project. It will also connect SWIFT City, a 1,000-acre integrated township for start-ups and workshops coming up in the Sarjapur area.

"The region is still developing, so stations will be spaced farther apart," the official added.

Still, the line is expected to have over 50 stations.

The line is part of a 210.9-km masterplan that BMRCL is preparing on the directions of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

The masterplan consists of six extensions and two new lines, bringing the city's planned network to 467.69 km, on a par with Delhi-NCR metro's planned 467 km.

To take on Cong, BJP-JD(S) to form 2 coordination panels

Coordination, From Page 1

Vijayendra explained that they had discussed the administrative "deterioration" in the state.

"You are seeing the disorder in Bengaluru," Vijayendra said.

"The state government and ministers are behaving so arrogantly that they aren't listening to advice by seniors like Mohandas Pai, Kiran Mazumdar Shah about Bengaluru and the situation of roads. Ministers are only attacking such seniors and criticising them on social media. This doesn't bring respect to the state government."

According to sources, discussions also revolved around the RSS issue (Minister Priyank Kharge's letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking a ban on RSS activities on government premises and a subsequent government order which prevents private organisations from holding programmes on government properties without permission), challenges in the GBA limits and the upcoming ZP and TP elections.

Delhi chokes as air quality slips to 'very poor' after Diwali

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Residents of Delhi and other cities in the National Capital Region woke up on Tuesday under a grey sky with air quality in the "very poor" category as bursting of firecrackers continued past midnight on Diwali in a clear violation of the timeline set by the Supreme Court.

A closer look at the level of PM2.5 – the most dangerous polluting particles in air – shows that Diwali 2025 is the worst one in the last five years, as the average PM2.5 level was 488 microgram per cubic metre – a three-fold increase from the pre-festival days.

"This year's Diwali has proven to be even worse than before. The data clearly shows a sharp rise in pollution levels. The spike between the nights of the 19th and 20th directly corresponds to the widespread use of firecrackers across Delhi-NCR," said Palal Balyan, Research Lead at Climate Trend, a policy think tank that analysed the PM-2.5 data taken from CPCB.

"Moreover, visuals and ground data confirm that burning so-called 'green' crackers made no measurable difference compared to regular ones."

According to the Central Pollution Control Board's own air quality index, Delhi AQI stands at 351 at 6 PM on Tuesday, signifying its extremely poor air quality that can have adverse health impacts. It's the same story in nearby Noida, Gurugram, Ghaziabad and Faridabad. A few monitoring stations in Delhi recorded an AQI of more than 400, signifying "severe" air pollution.

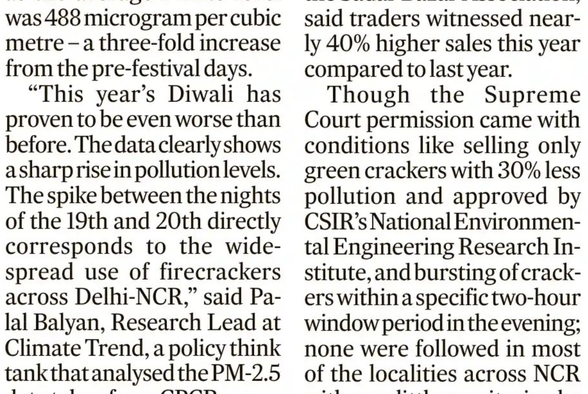
With the Supreme Court allowing bursting of green firecrackers in Delhi NCR for two hours on Diwali nights, the sale of crackers and fireworks went through the roof with a trading body claiming a sale of over Rs 500 crore in the festive season.

"Even a day before Diwali, most traders had run out of stock. Many people had to travel to Gurugram, Noida, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Sonipat to purchase crackers. The overall firecrackers sale in Delhi was around Rs 500 crore," said Brijesh Goyal, chairman, Chamber of Trade and Industry. Paramjit Singh Pamma, president of the Sadar Bazar Association, said traders witnessed nearly 40% higher sales this year compared to last year.

Though the Supreme Court permission came with conditions like selling only green crackers with 30% less pollution and approved by CSIR's National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, and bursting of crackers within a specific two-hour window period in the evening; none were followed in most of the localities across NCR with very little monitoring by the authorities. As a consequence, the air pollution level spiked sharply in Delhi and its satellite cities like Gurugram (AQI: 370), Ghaziabad (324) and Noida (320).

Of the total 38 monitoring stations, 35 were in the 'red zone', indicating 'very poor' to 'severe' air quality. As many as 31 were in the 'very poor' category, whereas 4 were in the 'severe' category, according to CPCB's SAMEER app, which provides real-time AQI data from monitoring stations.

"It is most likely that the high concentration of PM 2.5 is due to local emission of firecrackers in the different parts of the city on this Diwali night," said S K Dhaka, professor, Rajdhani College, University of Delhi.



Commuters drive amid heavy smog in New Delhi on Tuesday as haze engulfed the city skyline a day after Deepavali celebrations. AFP PHOTO

Ola engineer was not paid variable pay & incentives for two years: Brother

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

K Aravind, the 38-year-old Ola Electric engineer who died by suicide allegedly due to workplace harassment, had not received his variable pay and incentives for two years, his brother has claimed.

In a 28-page handwritten death note, Aravind detailed the unpaid dues and urged his family to pursue legal action. The note was addressed to his family, a union minister from Karnataka, the police and the media, his elder brother Ashwin Kannan told *DH*.

The family now plans to approach the Labour Department seeking action against the company headquartered in Koramangala.

Aravind, a homologation engineer, allegedly consumed poison at his home in Chikkakallasandra on September 28. The jurisdictional Subramanyapura police registered a case of abetment of suicide (BNS 108) against Bhavish Aggarwal, the company's Founder and CEO; Subrath Kumar Dash, Head of Vehicle Homologations and Regulations, and others on October 6.

Ashwin said: "I have taken legal opinion regarding filing a complaint with the Labour Department. I urge the government to intervene and take appropriate action against the company, where my brother endured a toxic work culture."

Manjunath G, Additional Labour Commissioner (Industrial Relations), said the department would look into the matter "if the family approaches us. The company is not exempt from labour laws," he told this newspaper.

Maitreyi K, a labour lawyer with the All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU), said the department must take immediate action to ensure that adequate compensation for the family. "There are allegations of non-payment of salary and poor working conditions. The department must conduct a comprehensive audit of the company's working conditions to verify compliance with all labour laws," she added.

Meanwhile, the Greater Bengaluru IT Companies and Industries Association (GBITCIA) said that as an apex body representing the IT and allied industries in Bengaluru, it was committed to promoting and upholding the highest standards of workplace ethics, safety and mental health for all industry professionals.

It said it was closely following developments and had full faith in the ongoing investigations by the appropriate authorities. It urged all members to cooperate fully with the legal process and prioritise employee welfare and transparent communication.

It stressed the importance of regular review and enhancement of workplace grievance redressal mechanisms, mental health support systems and open channels for feedback across all member organisations.

Three more from B'luru under scanner in Sabarimala gold case

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

At least three more persons from Bengaluru have come under the scanner of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the looting of gold from the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple.

This is in addition to Unnikrishnan Potti, a Malayali settled in Bengaluru, who has already been arrested in connection with the theft of gold from the temple's gold platings.

Among the newly identified suspects are Ananthasubramanyam and Ramesh, both reportedly involved in collecting the platings from Sabarimala on behalf of Potti. Another person, Kalpesh, is believed to have collected the extracted gold from Chennai-based Smart Creations. All three are suspected to be close associates of Potti.

Potti, currently in the custody of the SIT, has reportedly claimed that his role in the case was minimal and that he acted on instructions from the main conspirators.

The SIT suspects that nearly two kilograms of gold extracted from the temple's platings were sold to affluent devotees at prices far above market rates, citing the aesthetic and spiritual value linked to the Sabarimala temple. Recovering the stolen gold remains a major challenge, with scientific tests likely to play a key role.

Officials of the Travancore Devaswom Board, arraigned in the case, are expected to be questioned soon. Their involvement came under scrutiny after it was found that the original gold platings, sponsored by industrialist Vijay Mallya in 1998-99, were listed as copper when handed over to Potti in 2019 for re-plating.

The SIT on Tuesday submitted an interim report in the case.

Blue-collar job-seekers taken for Europe 'ride'

Blue-collar, From Page 1

"It all started with an Instagram advertisement," he told *DH*. When he clicked on the advertisement, agency representatives spammed him with job offers in Poland.

"I had only clicked on the ad out of curiosity. But after several calls and messages, they convinced me to apply for the job. They took the money, got me the work permit and asked me to wait for the visa. But the visa never came. I waited for months and then filed a police complaint," he said.

Three others have filed a complaint against the same company.

Coimbatore native Shahnawaz (name changed) lost Rs 1.5 lakh in similar circumstances while applying for a job in Austria. Over 300 people have been scammed by Just Set Journeys, based in Ramamurthy Nagar, he claimed.

"The company seemed legitimate from the get-go. It followed due procedure, did my medical check-up and even assured it would be providing accommodation for the first few weeks in Austria. I even visited its office for my interview with the Austrian firm. But once I got the work permit, they stopped contacting me. When I realised something was fishy, I again visited their office, only to find it empty," he recalled.

There is a severe imbalance in the success rate between obtaining visas and work permits for European countries.

"Work permits are easily obtainable but visas are not. Which is why we mostly stay away from these countries, and instead push for jobs in the Middle East and the Far East. We also discourage job opportunities in South Asian countries like Myanmar and Thailand, due to the rampant problem of cyber slavery," said an overseas recruiter.

EASTERN RAILWAY

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No. : DRMENGGRNC-111-113-2025. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), Ranchi-834003 for & on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work. **Sl. No., Notice No. & Name of work** are as follows : **1. DRMENGGRNC-111-2025**. Chandil-Muri - CTR(S)-22.262 Tkm, Hatia-Orga-CTR(S) - 2.766 Tkm & Muri - Barkakana - CTR(S) - 6.097 Tkm. **Tender Value** : ₹ 6,97,11,576.59, **EMD Value** : ₹ 4,98,600/-. **2. DRMENGGRNC-112-2025**. Standardisation of sand hump and dead ends in Ranchi division. **Tender Value :** ₹ 2,15,90,228.73, **EMD Value** : ₹ 2,58,000/-. **3. DRMENGGRNC-113-2025**. Reconditioning of CMS crossing by Robotic reconditioning technology with other misc. work under the jurisdiction of Ranchi division. **Tender Value** : ₹ 94,28,432.99. **EMD Value** : ₹ 1,88,600/-. **Tender Closing date & time:** 10.11.2025 at 15.00 hrs. Tenderers can visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in** for online tendering. **(PR-749)**

EASTERN RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No.: JMP-ELECT-69-RE-1-2025, Dated: 18.10.2025. Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Jamalpur Workshop, District-Munger, Bihar-811214 invites e-tender for the following work: **Tender No.: JMP-ELECT-69-RE-1-2025. Name of work:** Augmentation/Upgradation of maintenance free Earthing System in Railway Quarters of different Railway Colonies, Service buildings, shops, offices, etc of Jamalpur. **Advertised Tender Value:** ₹ 3,53,11,618. **Earnest Money**: ₹ 3,26,600. **Tender Document Cost:** Nil. **Closing date/time:** 10.11.2025 at 15.00 hrs. **Bidding start date:** 27.10.2025. Bidders are advised to visit **www.ireps.gov.in** for details of rules and regulations and method for bidding online. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. (MISC-240/2025-26)

Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender No. : e-Tender/GSU/2025/06, For and on behalf of President of India, the Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tender for the following works before 15:00hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15:30 hrs. **Sl. No., Tender No. & Description of Work are as follows : 1. E/KGP/GS/9/2025** : Provision of 6m wide FOB (Foot Over Bridge) at Andul & Uluberia Station Under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in Kharagpur Division. **Tender Value** : ₹ 17,74,13,373.75. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 10,37,100/-. **2. E/KGP/GS/11/2025** : Provision of 6m wide FOB (Foot Over Bridge) at Bagnan & Panskura Station Under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in Kharagpur Division. **Tender Value** : ₹ 17,82,57,617.76. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 10,41,300/-. **3. E/KGP/GS/12/2025** : Provision of 2 Nos. 6m wide FOB (Foot Over Bridge) at Mecheda & 1 No. 6m wide FOB (Foot Over Bridge) at Tamluk Station Under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in Kharagpur Division. **Tender Value** : ₹ 42,76,34,279.31. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 22,88,200/-. **Tender Document Cost** : ₹ 0 for each. **Date of Opening:** 07.11.2025 for each. **Completion Period of the work:** 12 months for each. **Bidding Start Date:** from 24.10.2025 and up to 15:00 hrs. on 07.11.2025. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/descriptions/specifications of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **"www.ireps.gov.in"** to participate in all tenders. **(PR-747)**

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಸಿವಿಲ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: eewmccmys@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ.(ಪೂ&ಪ)/ಸಾ.ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ-18/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18-10-2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ.(ಪೂ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-44/2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17-10-2025	5	524.10	ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ರ ನಂತರ	ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ವರೆಗೆ	ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ರ ನಂತರ
				18-10-2025	28-10-2025	30-10-2025
2	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ.(ಪೂ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-45/2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17-10-2025	2	16.40	18-10-2025	28-10-2025	29-10-2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.26 ರ ನಂತರ
	ಸರ್ವಿಸ್ & ಗೂಡ್ಸ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು					
3	ಹೆಚ್1/ಪವಿ/101/2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16-10-2025	1	99.47	ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ರ ನಂತರ	ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	ಸಂಜೆ 5.26 ನಂತರ
				21-10-2025	11-11-2025	12-11-2025
4	ಹೆಚ್1/ಪವಿ/102/2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16-10-2025	1	60.00	24-10-2025	13-11-2025	15-11-2025
5	ಹೆಚ್1/ಪವಿ/103/2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16-10-2025	1	51.00	21-10-2025	03-11-2025	04-11-2025
6	ಹೆಚ್1/ಪವಿ/103/2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16-10-2025	1	34.81	21-10-2025	05-11-2025	06-11-2025
	EOI					
7	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ.(ಪ)/2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18-10-2025	1	–	23-10-2025	06-11-2025	07-11-2025

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ / ಬದಲಾವಣೆ / ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಮೈಸೂರು

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/1119/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/2025-26

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Bihar poll: Divided opposition is bad optics

Bihar's Mahagathbandhan, a grand alliance of Opposition parties, is fighting battles within itself instead of putting together a united front against the ruling NDA. As the nomination process closed on Monday, a picture of division has emerged, with the constituent parties fighting each other in some seats and one party leaving the alliance. The Mahagathbandhan consists of the RJD, the Congress, the CPI-ML, the CPI, the CPM, and the Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP). The JMM, which is an I.N.D.I.A bloc ally of the Congress and the RJD in Jharkhand, has opted out of the contest after its demand for six seats was rejected. Its leader, Hemant Soren, has alleged a conspiracy and said JMM would review its alliance in Jharkhand, where the party is in power with the Congress and the RJD as partners.

Even after weeks of negotiations, the RJD and the Congress have not agreed on a seat division arrangement. They are set to fight each other in at least five seats where there is no agreement. The Congress and the CPI may be headed for "friendly fights" in some seats. In two seats, the RJD will take on the VIP. The RJD is contesting 143 seats, one less than the 144 it contested in 2020, and the Congress is contesting 61 seats, nine less than in 2020. The Mahagathbandhan was pitched by its leaders as an inclusive coalition that would accommodate all social groups. There was even a proposal to allot seats to the recently formed Indian Inclusive Party (IIP), which represents two small communities. That even the main constituents of the alliance have not been able to accommodate each other sends out a message of discord.

Seat-sharing disputes and shows of discontent mar credibility in the fight against the ruling NDA

An electoral alliance needs to present a united face and a common platform when it goes to the people. Here, the parties appear to be working towards their individual post-election tallies, not at their collective outcome – disunity can prove costly for the coalition. Mutual suspicion, unreasonable expectation, inflated ambition, and a reluctance to make compromises in common interest seem to be affecting the credibility of the alliance. There are also divisions within the parties. The distribution of tickets has not gone very well. The Mahagathbandhan was buoyed by the large crowds seen in the Voter Adhikar Yatra held by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav. But issues and attitudes shift; appearances and perceptions of organisational cohesion are important in elections. The alliance has not put its best foot forward in a crucial race with national consequence.

Arbitrary auto fares call for a permanent fix

Bengaluru's autorickshaw fares have long been a source of commuter frustration: meters that do not run, arbitrary rates, and endless arguments with drivers. The latest round of fare revision has only deepened the chaos. Out of the city's 3.45 lakh registered autos, barely 10,000 have had their meters recalibrated to reflect the new fares. The deadline for recalibration and verification, set for October 31, looks unrealistic and unfair to both drivers and passengers. The Transport Department had fixed fares at Rs 36 for the first two kilometres and Rs 18 for every additional kilometre. However, most drivers continue to charge as they please, often without even displaying the revised fares. Passengers are left guessing, and disputes during rides have become common. Worse, several drivers have said they were turned away from verification centres or asked to return after October 25, due to a shortage of manpower as many employees of the Legal Metrology Department have been deputed for the Karnataka Social and Educational Survey. The recalibration process itself, which began in mid-August, has been haphazard and poorly communicated, a failure that has only emboldened errant drivers.

Under the circumstances, the government should extend the deadline and ensure that, in the interim, every autorickshaw displays a printed chart of the revised fares. This will help prevent commuters from being fleeced and restore a measure of accountability. But the problem does not end with street-hailing autos. Ride aggregator platforms, which adopted the revised fares in August, have been accused of profiteering disproportionately as the Transport Department and police look the other way. Reports of fares 20-30% higher than government-fixed rates, surge pricing during peak hours, and other opaque fees have become routine. There are also complaints that sometimes, cabs booked through the same apps cost less than autos. The claim of digital convenience cannot justify what many commuters describe as daylight robbery. The government must apply the same rigour in monitoring aggregator pricing as it does with individual auto drivers.

Fare revisions are pointless without recalibrated meters. Enforcement must also cover ride aggregators

There is also a pressing need for a citywide verification drive to check drivers' documents and permits, especially as many autos are reportedly operated without proper documents or background checks. With single women and senior citizens frequently relying on autos, passenger safety must be paramount. Ultimately, fare tinkering and enforcement drives are only stopgap measures. The lasting solution lies in strengthening public transport so that autorickshaws are used primarily for last-mile connectivity, not as a daily necessity forced by a system that fails to meet the city's mobility needs.

OUR SURVEYS, THEIR SURVEYS

Caste, class and the privilege of disconnect

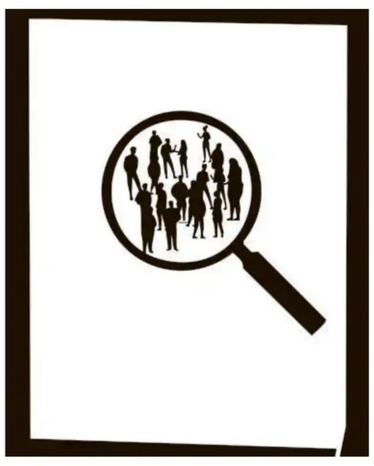
Elite detachment from India's ground realities distorts the welfare narrative and hinders data-driven policymaking

JAGDISH RATTANANI

The socio-economic survey in Karnataka by the state's Backward Classes Commission has brought to the fore a set of stereotypical narratives that seek to block or run down affirmative action. They come with the prescribed dictionary of privilege, like merit or efficiency, being presented as positive attributes locked in a fight against the lazy, looking for freebies that are said to be a waste of public funds. Set against the background of caste hierarchies that still decide a lot in India, a controversy is created, and doubts are raised to discredit the collection of data that can aid public policy. This is the frame of the noise that has been created on the Karnataka caste-related survey, with Sudha Murty and her husband Narayana Murthy, co-founder of Infosys, turning away the enumerators by saying they are not backwards. Apart from signalling the entrenched nature of privilege, the refusal points to the downsides of our elite science and engineering streams, which build limited domain expertise but remain disconnected from the grassroots of India and, in fact, may contribute to the widening of social and economic inequities.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has reacted sharply to the Murthys' refusal to participate in the survey. In a telling comment that must become the signpost of our times, the Chief Minister said the survey was not meant only for backward communities – "... because they are from Infosys does not mean that they are all-knowing." The comment can be extended to various forms of superiority that Indians tend to routinely attribute to select institutions, knowledge streams, or businesses. For example, we can similarly and meaningfully argue that just because you passed out of an elite IIT or IIM, it does not mean the person is all-knowing, or indeed that just because you run a large company, it does not follow that you are all-knowing. Value-free scientific or technical knowledge, it is well acknowledged, does more harm than good, unhinged as it is from issues of fairness, social justice, or indeed ethics. It is instructive to recall that Enron, the fraud that became the biggest US bankruptcy in 2001, had employed dozens of elite engineers and PhDs, besides hundreds of MBAs. These "smartest men in the room" accelerated the coming collapse.

The Murthys are, of course, within their rights not to disclose information about their caste or economic status since participation in the survey is voluntary. But as software engineers who profited from early strides in the space



of IT services, they would surely know the significance of robust, timely, and updated data to design better policy and deliver services more fairly, particularly to sections classified as backward. The statement attributed to Sudha Murty, who reportedly wrote her refusal on the survey form, is this: "We do not belong to any backward community. Hence, we will not participate in a government-conducted survey meant for such groups." The words "such groups" point to the classical 'them' versus 'us' divide – that 'they' may want something from the government, but 'we' don't, hence don't come to us for this survey. The demand for social justice gets the colour of beggary in such an approach.

The Murthys should know that the Centre, too, has signed up for a caste enumeration with the upcoming census, saying this would show how the government is "committed to the holistic interests and values of the nation and society". Now, as the Chief Minister asks, will the Murthys refuse to participate in that, too?

Welfare vs freebies

The connected charge against the survey is that it creates the ground for appeasement or "freebies" as welfare measures. This deserves to be studied against facts because it is the union government that has led policy for unconditional cash transfers, or UCTs. A recently released report (*Unconditional Cash Transfers in India: Tracing the Journey, Shaping the Future* by Project Deep) has documented how UCTs are an effective tool to promote financial participation and inclusion of women by enabling access, removing barriers, and the like. Beginning in 2015-16, when the Centre spent Rs 8,560 crore on UCTs, the number has grown to Rs 69,620 crore in 2024-25 (budget estimates), an eight-fold growth in as many years. The Centre and the states, put together, spent Rs 12,190 crore on UCTs in 2015-16; this grew 23 times to Rs 280,780 crore in 2024-25, as the states accelerated their UCT contributions.

The report said there was consensus that "UCTs should not replace essential state functions but rather serve as strategic tools to enhance equity, reduce precarity, and improve welfare access." The government must still invest in quality public goods like roads, schools, and hospitals so that citizens can use the money to enhance their lives, the report said. It added a cautionary note: "UCTs should not be a band-aid against broken systems".

This points to the complex nature of the task of development. The choice is not between supporting the weak and building services. Both are required and must work in tandem, bringing to focus the need for high standards of governance. We have to provide targeted welfare where needed, and data shows that this works. At the same time, tightly monitored projects and superior execution must ensure that public funds are used to drive value to the last rupee being spent. However, the atmosphere itself is vitiated, and divisions are created when powerful names and privileged groups take a stand that is more prejudiced than principled.

(The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A blast from the past

Deepavali was a cracker of a festival, and we had the time of our lives!

H NARAYANAN

Scarcely would the festival of Navaratri (Dasara) have ended when the noise of sporadic bursting of crackers began charging the atmosphere, reminding people of Deepavali getting round the corner. With the days preceding Deepavali drawing closer, people would start buying crackers, gorgeous clothes and what not. As for me and my siblings, two sisters and one brother, all elder to me, our mom would make the new garments for Deepavali as well as for all the other occasions on her leg-operated Singer sewing machine. She made the attires for all of us in the 1940s, thus obviating the necessity of counting upon any tailor.

During the run-up to the festival, she would be running off her feet preparing a variety of sweets and savouries, as there were no confectioneries or sweetshops in those days nor hotels selling delicacies for festivals. Since no strings were attached to the time of playing crackers, nor were there high risers, and houses in residential areas were well within vast compounds, space for bursting crackers easily met the case.

Amid a gamut of crackers those days, one specific type called 'Aeroplanes', each with a small cylindrical metal shell packed with the explosive powder and a wick attached to it, would rise high vertically and whirlingly, besides spraying colourful sparks around when lighted up – a jaw-dropping sight indeed. Its hot empty shell was almost never known to have dropped on anyone around.

On the day of Deepavali, getting up earlier than all others in the family, our mom would wake us up with a tumbler of steaming hot coffee for each and ask us to take a bath, smearing a palmful of gingelly oil on the crown, a time-honoured custom. After the bath, prostrating before the puja room and then our folks and seeking their blessings, we, dolled up in our new clothes, would move allegro to the spacious porch with the steel trunk containing the crackers. Lighting the multifarious kinds of crackers at the sprawling open grassy field fronting our house, we would have the time of our lives. A tad before the crack of dawn our stock of crackers would all but finish, and it was then alone that we would rush for our breakfast. No sooner had we finished having our breakfast than a small orchestra started playing devotional songs door to door on *Mrudhanga*, *Nadhaswaram*, *tamboura*, and castanets, and we left having received moola from our mom. We would start visiting our relatives and friends in our neck of the woods, a practice that doubled our joy as well as the spirit of the festival.

The bygone means of celebrating Deepavali now come to be known as the "Festival of Lights", and the style of celebration is bound by numerous restrictions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cracks in the Mahagathbandhan

Apropos 'Bihar polls: Cong, RJD set to face off in 5 seats' (Oct 21), the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections may see the Opposition Mahagathbandhan alliance paying a heavy price for its internal disunity. In several constituencies, alliance partners are reportedly fielding candidates against each other, signalling deep cracks in coordination and trust. Such contests not only divide votes but also create confusion among the electorate, undermining the image of a cohesive front against the ruling NDA. Analysts warn that voters may perceive the Mahagathbandhan as fragmented and weak, eroding confidence in its ability to govern effectively. The alliance's central leadership faces a critical challenge in managing competing ambitions, enforcing seat-sharing agreements, and projecting unity. If unchecked, this disarray could allow the NDA to consolidate its support base, leveraging the opposition's infighting. The situation underscores that in Bihar's highly competitive political landscape, only a united, disciplined, and strategically aligned opposition can present a credible challenge, making internal cohesion pivotal for electoral success.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

Stand for democracy

Apropos 'Don't vote for tainted candidates even from NDA: BJP's RK Singh' (Oct 21), BJP leader and former Union minister RK Singh's appeal to the people of Bihar to reject candidates with a criminal record, including those fielded by the NDA, is welcome and inspires hope. His suggestion that voters should not support such candidates, even if they belong to their own caste, and opt for NOTA if none of the candidates are clean, is a commendable stance. This appeal gives meaning to electoral democracy. It is heartening to see a leader taking a principled stand on this issue.

M Basavaraj, Davangere

Legacy of laughter

The passing of veteran actor Govardhan Asrani on October 20 at the age of 84 marks the end of an era in Indian cinema. With a career spanning over five decades, Asrani appeared in more than 350 films, including classics like *Guddi, Mere Apne, Bawarchi, Chupke Chupke*, and *Abhiman*. His comedic genius shone brightest as the bumbling jailer in *Sholay*, a role etched in popular culture. He continued to charm audiences in modern hits like *Bhool Bhulaiyaa, Dhamaal, R... Rajkumar*, and *Bunty Aur Babli 2*. His legacy of laughter and warmth endures.

K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Maintain uniformity

I refer to the report 'RSS march: Won't influence decision on permission' (Oct 21). Panchayat Raj and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge's decision not to influence the government's decision on granting permission for the RSS to conduct a route march on November 2 on government land is commendable. However, this principle should be applied uniformly to all groups.

J A Nathan, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

...There was never any discontent within the NDA... Everything happened very smoothly... On the other hand in the Mahagathbandhan, there is confusion...There was never any confusion in the NDA.

Sanjay Jha, JD(U) MP

Everything was perfectly healthy and normal here in Denial Land.

Jim Butcher

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Marriage equality: Judgement and after

Piecemeal efforts signal progress, but true equality for queer individuals hinges on legal and legislative action

JWALIKA BALAJI AND ISHANI CHAKRABORTY

October 17, 2025, marked two years since the Supreme Court's judgement in *Supriyo v. Union of India*, the marriage equality case. The Court unanimously held that there was no fundamental right to marry, and the majority found no constitutional infirmity in the Special Marriage Act, 1954, or the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, and the CARA guidelines restricting joint adoption by queer couples.

Importantly, however, all judges concurred that queer persons face rampant discrimination across spheres of law and life – education, employment, healthcare, housing, and relationships. The Court noted the multifaceted ways in which queer individuals and couples suffer exclusion, discrimination, hostility, and even violence. The Court relied on the Union Government's assurance to create a High-Powered Committee (HPC) to redress discrimination and passed binding orders to operationalise the HPC.

The HPC was set up in 2024, and some interim measures were taken. For instance, the Department of Food and Public Distribution advised states and Union Territories to treat queer partners as a single household for ration card purposes. The Department of Financial Services clarified that queer persons could open joint bank accounts and nominate their partners. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare directed states to safeguard LGBTQI+ rights in healthcare, prohibit conversion therapy, and sensitise medical staff. Medical guidelines relating to intersex persons were also issued. When questioned in the Lok Sabha this February, the government merely restated these measures, admitting no further action in the past year.

However, many of these advisories and directions do not comprehensively solve issues. For example, the Tamil Nadu Medical Council's (TNMC) recent announcement that doctors conducting conversion therapy could face suspension of their licenses is a positive step. Yet, with 'conversion therapy' undefined in law, coercive counselling, forced isolation, or even 'corrective rape' may escape such regulation. Moreover, unlicensed practitioners or quacks who claim to 'cure' queer identities remain beyond the TNMC's regulatory oversight.

Similarly, the Department of Financial Services merely reiterated existing policy, without adding rights or procedures to ease property transfers between queer partners. Even today, intestate succession is solely tied to one's natal family and heterosexual, marital relationships, which excludes queer families. These criticisms may be seen as jumping the gun, as the HPC has a much broader mandate and is expected to tackle many of these issues. However, there is no clarity on HPC's timeline and recommendations, creating uncertainty about forward-looking legislative and executive measures.

Some state governments have shown initiative, albeit in a limited manner. Following the directions of the Madras High Court to formulate an LGBTQI+ policy, the Tamil Nadu government released a Policy for Transgender Persons a few months ago. The Policy has been criticised on some fronts since it skirts around important issues such as reservations in education and employment for trans persons, while entirely leaving out sexual minorities from its ambit. Nonetheless, the initiative signals a willingness to engage with the demands of the queer community, which is important in achieving change gradually.

Statutory reform

The Kerala government launched a housing scheme for transgender persons, providing financial assistance for the purchase of land and construction of houses. The government of Uttar Pradesh extended its Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan to transgender persons, offering skills training, financial support, and access to loans for self-employment, along with a mandate to districts to employ trans persons. These measures signal change but are subject to changes at the discretion of ministers or bureaucrats. In contrast, statutory and legislative changes are more permanent and capable of better enforcement. Thus, state governments should move towards crystallising the actions they have taken for LGBTQI+ welfare.

The lack of substantive regulation has not deterred queer persons from approaching courts and demanding their rights. A same-sex couple recently petitioned the Bombay High Court, arguing that taxing gifts between same-sex partners but exempting heterosexual couples under the Income Tax Act violates their constitutional rights. In another petition, the Delhi High Court asked the Centre to justify the exclusion of queer couples from consenting on behalf of their partners for medical treatment or emergencies.

This piecemeal approach may ultimately be useful in achieving tangible reforms in the statute books of our country. Even though marriage equality was denied two years ago, the legislative relief that would have followed is now being pursued incrementally. The second anniversary of *Supriyo* should remind us that the story is not over yet – we are here to write an anthology over the next few years and decades.

(Jwalika is a research fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy; Ishani is a fourth-year student at RGNUL, Punjab)

The Karnataka model: A unique PPP that delivers doctors to the grassroots

ALEXANDER THOMAS AND JAWAID AKHTAR

For decades, India's rural public health infrastructure has suffered from an acute shortage of specialist doctors. Taluk hospitals, which are meant to serve as the first point of referral in the government system, have often functioned without anaesthetists, surgeons, or paediatricians. Patients requiring even moderately complex care have had to travel long distances, sometimes over 100 kilometres, at great cost, risk, and delay. In Gangavathi, pregnant women face childbirth with fear, praying that labour and delivery will present no complications. Those who did experience complications were transferred from the local taluk hospital to distant cities—and not all survived the long journey. It is no wonder, then, that many avoid seeking care from public healthcare facilities.

To address this systemic void, the Government of Karnataka launched a bold experiment in 2017. In partnership with the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) and the Association of National Board Accredited Institutions (ANBAI), the state began accrediting its district and taluk hospitals as training centres for the Diplomate of National Board (DNB) postgraduate medical programme.

The innovative programme had two key pillars: half of the DNB seats were reserved for in-service government doctors, enabling them to pursue specialist training while continuing their service in public hospitals, and the remaining 50% were open-category DNB students who would serve a mandatory one-year bond in public hospitals after graduating.

Together, these measures created a steady pipeline of trained specialists for Karnataka's public healthcare system—especially in rural and underserved regions.

Soon, specialists began arriving at the local taluk and district hospitals: gynaecologists, anaesthetists, and paediatricians. The transformation was extraordinary. A child with pneumonia, once rushed to a hospital in a distant city, could now be treated in her hometown by a qualified paediatrician. A farmer with a hernia no longer needed to travel days for a basic operation. A woman in obstructed labour could now undergo a safe caesarean section in her taluk hospital because a trained gynaecologist and anaesthetist were finally on site. From barely 2,000 safe deliveries a year in Gangavathi, the numbers surged to nearly 5,000. Caesarean sections became routine. Complicated cases that once required high-risk transfers are now managed locally and safely.

Gangavathi's story is not an isolated success: it is one of 36 district and taluk hospitals across Karnataka that are part of this quiet revolution in rural healthcare. Importantly, Karnataka is among the first states in the country to use taluk hospitals as postgraduate (PG) training centres, paving the way for a sustainable supply of specialists in rural areas.

Recognising the innovation and impact of this bold public–private partnership, the Indian Institute of Management – Bangalore undertook a year-long case study to understand its design, implementation, and outcomes. The results are striking. As of 2025, over 300 DNB specialists have completed their training, and more than 170 are currently serving in government hospitals across Karnataka under their bond obligations. Through the in-service route, 93 government doctors have already completed training in nine key specialities, including orthopaedics, paediatrics, general surgery, ophthalmology, and radiology. Many of them have now been posted in taluk hospitals for the very first time. In total, 369 DNB students are currently enrolled across 36 government-run hospitals (16 district hospitals and 20 taluk hospitals). The programme has succeeded not only in increasing the number of specialists but also in decentralising training and care delivery.

The strength of the Karnataka model lies in its unique tripartite collaboration: the Government of Karnataka provided infrastructure, administrative support and stipends; NBEMS ensured rigorous academic standards, transparent evaluations and national accreditation; and ANBAI, through its network of private hospitals, mentored faculty and trainees, offering these services entirely pro bono. Unlike typical schemes that rely on large capital outlays or external consultants, this initiative worked within existing systems. By leveraging the strengths of each partner, it embedded postgraduate medical education directly into the state's public health framework.

Numbers alone do not capture the transformation underway. As services improve, community trust rises, and more patients choose public hospitals. As utilisation increases, healthcare teams become more motivated, thus setting off a virtuous cycle of trust, access and improved outcomes.

While Karnataka's success is remarkable, its significance lies in its replicability. Even in the most underserved regions, specialist care can be delivered through smart, system-level innovation. This is not a high-cost intervention. It is not reliant on cutting-edge technology or massive new infrastructure. It is a model built on policy reform, training and collaboration, all of which can be adapted by other states. Of course, challenges still remain, as retention of specialists in rural areas, integration with other public health priorities, and sustained mentorship are ongoing concerns. But Karnataka's experience shows that with shared purpose and political will, these hurdles can be overcome.

(Alexander is the Founder and Patron of AHPI, ANBAI, CAHO and Vayah Vikas; Jawaid [IAS] is a former Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka)

The peace plan calls for an international security force in the Gaza Strip, but countries that might send troops are wary of danger, an unclear mission and being seen as occupiers

THE NEW YORK TIMES

A child wrapped in a green Hamas flag stands in a line of militants mustered as a show of force at a hostage handover ceremony in Nuseirat, in the central Gaza Strip in February. Some of the countries have indicated that they do not want their troops to be in the centre of Gaza's cities, because of the danger posed there by Hamas and its tunnel networks. FILEPHOTO/ NYT

Nations hesitate to send troops to Gaza amid Hamas fears

The fragile ceasefire in the Gaza Strip that came into force last week rests on some key assumptions: that Hamas militants give up their weapons and that an international troop presence keep the peace as Israel withdraws its military from the enclave.

But the countries that might make up that force are skittish about committing soldiers who could potentially come into direct conflict with Hamas while it is still an armed group, diplomats and other people familiar with the deliberations say.

US President Donald Trump's 20-point plan, which led to an Israel-Hamas ceasefire and an exchange of hostages for prisoners and detainees, envisioned the immediate deployment of a "temporary International Stabilisation Force" in Gaza. The idea was for the international corps to secure areas where Israeli troops have withdrawn, prevent munitions from entering the territory, facilitate the distribution of aid and train a Palestinian police force.

The creation and deployment of an international force in Gaza could determine whether the current ceasefire has a chance to evolve into a lasting agreement, and whether Israelis and Palestinians move towards the broader aim of a durable peace.

Diplomats and other officials from several countries who are familiar with the situation say there has been little progress on when the force might be assembled because of confusion over the force's mission, which appears to be the most serious stumbling block.

Representatives from several countries seen as likely participants have said privately they will not commit troops until there is more clarity about what the force will be expected to do once it arrives in Gaza, according to two diplomats briefed on the discussions in recent days.

Their main concern is that their troops should not be expected to fight Hamas militants, some of whom remain heavily armed, on Israel's behalf. For several of the countries, that prospect alone would be reason enough to back out, the officials said.

Some of the countries have also indicated in private discussions that they do not want their troops to be in the centres of Gaza's cities, because of the danger posed there by Hamas and its tunnel networks, according to discussions with people familiar with the talks.

All of the people spoke on condition of anonymity, and insisted that the reluctant countries not be identified, to discuss the sensitive discussions.

An eruption of violence in Gaza on Sunday underscored those concerns. An attack by Palestinian militants in Israeli-held territory killed two Israeli soldiers, according to the Israeli military. Israel responded with a punishing bombardment of what it described as Hamas installations, which killed 45 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials, who do not distinguish between civilian and combatant casualties.

Under the Biden administration, preliminary efforts were made to form a force including personnel from Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Italy, according to Jamie Rubin, who served as an adviser to Antony Blinken, the secretary of state at the time, and helped develop a plan for postwar governance in Gaza.

Recent discussions have included Indonesia, Egypt, Turkey and Azerbaijan, according to two diplomats.

Mediators who negotiated the current ceasefire are eager to get an international force into Gaza quickly to stabilise the area before Hamas consolidates its power in the roughly half of Gaza that Israel has ceded so far.

A Turkish government statement stated that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had said Turkey would join a task force that it described as overseeing the ceasefire. It was unclear whether he was referring directly to the stabilisation force. Some in Israel's leadership are likely to be sceptical about Turkey playing a leading role in Gaza given that Erdogan has repeatedly condemned Israel during the past two years.

President Prabowo Subianto of Indonesia said during a speech at the United Nations last month that his country was ready to deploy 20,000 or more troops to "help secure peace in Gaza" and other war zones.

Uncertainty about who would be responsible for security in Gaza, could leave parts of the enclave without any military presence to counter Hamas for weeks, if not months. The situation has produced some difficult contradictions as diplomats try to move forward with plans for the region.

Without such a force and government, diplomats said, Gaza could be left with Hamas as the only governing authority. Moreover, Israel's military is unlikely to withdraw further — a key inducement for Hamas to accept the Trump plan — until an international force is ready to take its place.

Much depends, however, on whether Hamas gives up its weapons—which its leaders have been reluctant to do thus far.

Asked about how Hamas would disarm, Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and one of the architects of the ceasefire told *CBS' 60 Minutes* last week: "So in order for that to occur, we need to create the international stabilisation force and then the international stabilisation force needs to create a local Palestinian government."

Analysts say Arab states would be unlikely to deploy soldiers in Gaza if they feared they could be drawn into clashes with armed Hamas gunmen resisting their presence, and also if their participation was not connected to a pathway to Palestinian statehood—which Israel's government opposes.

"Getting militarily involved in Gaza is politically risky for Arab countries," said Ghaith al-Omari, an expert on Palestinian affairs and a senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a Middle East-focused think tank in Washington. "They don't want to come in and be seen as doing Israel's dirty work. So they need a Palestinian invitation and the UN Security Council mandate."

He added, "They also don't want their contribution to be merely coming to secure a ceasefire that doesn't lead to ending the Israeli occupation."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel has suggested that Israel would act to disarm Hamas "the hard way" if the Palestinian militants refused to do so on their own.

The idea of an international peacekeeping force in Gaza has been under discussion since soon after Hamas attacked on October 7, 2023, and Israel began its two-year military response. Various proposals from France, the United States and others have suggested that such a force would be needed quickly after the fighting between Israel and Hamas ended.

Discussions are also underway about the establishment of a separate, Palestinian police force that might operate in the urban areas of Gaza.

The Palestinian Authority, which runs a large police force in the West Bank, would seem a natural candidate, except for the opposition of Israel. Netanyahu, who has long sought to prevent both the West Bank and Gaza from winding up under the control of the same Palestinian entity, has firmly rejected any meaningful involvement of the authority in Gaza. When his Cabinet outlined its terms for ending the war in August, it included an explicit statement that the Palestinian Authority would not govern Gaza.

And even Palestinian officials say the authority's reassertion of control in Gaza — from which it was ejected by Hamas in a 2007 civil war — would likely require careful planning and further training for its security forces.

Mohammad Mustafa, the Palestinian Authority's prime minister, told reporters on October 16 that Egypt and Jordan were providing training to some of the authority's officers and that the authority would "gradually operate" in Gaza after the war.

But asked when that might happen, he did not provide a timeline.

"War did stop but a lot of arrangements still are not in place," Mustafa conceded at a news conference in the West Bank city of Ramallah, "on governance, on security, on logistics."

A Nobel for carbon capture

B K SINGH

This year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to Susumu Kitagawa of Kyoto University, Japan; Richard Robson of the University of Melbourne, Australia; and Omar M Yaghi of the University of California, Berkeley, US, for their pioneering work in creating metal-organic frameworks (MOFs).

MOFs have large internal cavities that allow gases and other molecules to flow in and out, making them highly versatile. Over the past few decades, laboratories worldwide have developed numerous MOFs with varied uses – from separating PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) from water and delivering pharmaceuticals in the human body to trapping ethylene gas to slow fruit ripening. Researchers have even harvested water from desert air, removed poisonous air from industrial emissions, and used MOFs to break down traces of antibiotics in the environment.

Robson was inspired by the atomic structure of diamond, a rigid three-dimensional network in which each carbon atom is bonded to four others in a tetrahedral arrangement. This repeating tetrahedral unit forms a crystal lattice, creating a highly stable and durable structure with strong covalent bonds in all directions. His early experiments in 1989 produced only unstable structures that collapsed. It was in the 1990s, through the efforts of Kitagawa and Yaghi, that stable frameworks were achieved. In 1999, Yaghi created MOF-5, a highly stable material with cubic spaces. Robson later used copper (Cu+) ions and four-armed molecules with nitrile (CN) groups to produce spacious MOF crystals. Since then, tens of thousands of MOFs have been formed by the scientists. MOF materials have pores at the nanoscale, which are molecular traps capable of selectively capturing gases, including CO2. They act like high-tech molecular sponges capable of selectively capturing gases such as CO2 with remarkable efficiency.

The Nobel Committee described MOFs as materials with "unheard of properties", noting that a porous MOF weighing just two grams—roughly the size of a sugar cube—can have a surface area as large as a football field. As Olof Ramström of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry said, "A small amount of such material can be almost like Hermione's handbag in Harry Potter—it can store a huge amount of gas in a tiny volume."

After receiving the award, Kitagawa said, "My dream is to capture air and separate air—for instance, in CO or oxygen or water—and convert this into useful materials using renewable energy."

The potential of this discovery is especially relevant in the face of increasing climate disasters. This year alone, floods and landslides have ravaged Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and the Northeastern states. Punjab saw one of its worst floods in living memory. Landslides in Sudan killed over a thousand people; in Nepal landslide debris buried the whole village, killing over a hundred. Heat waves and typhoons disrupted lives and livelihoods across the world --in the West, East and Southeast Asia. These extreme weather events are the symptoms of the 2,500 gigatons of CO2 humanity has pumped into the atmosphere since the Industrial Revolution. The Nobel-winning innovation offers a promising way to capture this carbon from the atmosphere.

Experiments using MOFs to capture CO2 began in 2005. In recent years, more researchers, such as Fan and Liu (2022 and 2024), have developed cobalt-based MOF photocatalysts that can convert CO2 into renewable energy. Industrial-scale applications are now within reach, potentially transforming carbon emissions into useable fuel.

In India, MOFs based on zinc, zirconium, chromium, and iron have achieved over 90% efficiency in removing dye from wastewater. They are also being explored as photocatalysts for degrading emerging pollutants and as sensors for detecting antibiotics and heavy metals in wastewater. Several universities and research institutes in India are studying MOFs for carbon capture. While laboratory results are promising, scaling up for industrial applications remains a challenge.

As MOFs have the potential to trap poisonous gases, they could even play a role in tackling Delhi's persistent air pollution. Post-combustion carbon capture using MOFs could be deployed in power plants and heavy industries, while pre-combustion carbon capture could benefit chemical processing and synthetic fuel production. Direct air capture from ambient air, meanwhile, offers benefits for large-scale global carbon mitigation.

(The writer is a retired head of the Karnataka Forest Force)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 1975

Debts of poor, small farmers in State liquidated

Bangalore, October 21
All debts of poor agriculturists, agricultural labourers and other weaker sections of the society obtained from private sources have been liquidated in Karnataka by an ordinance promulgated here today by the Governor. The benefit of this relief from debts is available to all small agriculturists having less than two hectares of unirrigated land, all agricultural labourers and other weaker sections whose annual income is less than Rs. 2,400. The Ordinance replaces the law which imposed a two-year moratorium on such debts.

25 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 2000

4 Pakistanis among 31 charged in church blasts case

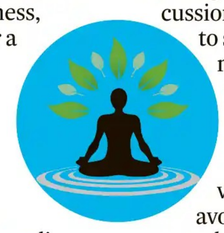
Bangalore, Oct 21
The COD has filed three charge-sheets against 31 persons, including four Pakistani nationals, in connection with the serial bomb blasts in churches in the State during June-July this year. The COD will seek the assistance of the Interpol division of the CBI to issue a "red- corner notice" against the mastermind behind the blasts, Sayed Zia Ul Hasan of Deendar Anjuman, and three of his sons presently holed up in Pakistan. "The Interpol will be contacted soon after the court directive," said Mr V V Bhaskar, DGP (COD).

OASIS | SURYAKUMARI DENNISON

Taming the tongue

'What you say can preserve life or destroy it,' is a precept from the Book of Proverbs in the Bible. It warns us against venting our anger on someone in a tempestuous tirade. Before we know it, we have lashed out mercilessly and said things that can never be taken back. Indeed, we may not want to withdraw our words, instead declaring proudly, "I gave him a piece of my mind" or "I told her exactly what I thought of her."

Besides, it is not necessary to talk loud and long to wound people's feelings. Biting sarcasm, a curt reply to a query, a bad-tempered "Don't bother me," in response to a request, can be just as hurtful. Often, it is those closest to us who are at the receiving end of our rudeness, since we are irritable after a stressful day.



While we can perhaps justify this lack of restraint on grounds of extreme provocation, what is unpardonable is that other dreadful use to which we put our tongues: malicious gossip.

This includes spreading baseless rumours, and repeating something shared in strict confidence; also (expressly forbidden in the 9th of the 10 Commandments), falsely defaming our neighbours. Such distasteful discussions tear a person's character to shreds and ruin his or her reputation. We must resist the urge to say, "Have you heard the latest?" and "She's a nice girl, but..."

Not as evil as verbal vituperation, but still best avoided, is our obsession with ourselves. We may not boast about our achievements, but we go on about the problems that plague us. None of us has been singled out and marked for misfortune. Rather, as Shakespeare's *Hamlet* reminds us, every human being experiences the "thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to". Let us therefore desist from discoursing on our cares and concerns, opinions and objectives.

Even a conversation devoid of slander or selfishness is harmful if it wastes time: a precious commodity. The moment we recall that we could be more gainfully employed than indulging in idle chatter, we ought to immediately refrain from rambling.

Does all this mean that we should muzzle ourselves? Certainly not! If silence is golden, so is speech. We only need to tame our tongues.

COERCION CLAIMS: Jan Suraaj chief says saffron party forced candidate withdrawals

BJP intimidating party candidates: Kishor

NEW DELHI, DHNS

After three candidates of the Jan Suraaj party withdrew their nominations, Prashant Kishor on Tuesday accused the BJP of intimidating his party's candidates.

Mutur Shah from Danapur, Satya Prakash Tiwari from Brahampur, and Shashi Shekhar Sinha from Gopalganj withdrew their nominations after intimidation, he alleged.

"The BJP has built an image in the last few years that no matter who wins elections, the BJP forms the government. Look at the condition of the party that called Jan Suraaj a vote-cutter and said we have no identity. The polling process has begun, and the NDA is terrified," Kishor said.

Kishor said the BJP is not afraid of the I.N.D.I.A bloc and said, "They warn people that if they don't vote for them, Lalu Yadav's 'Jungle Raj' will return. But this time, people have a new option—Jan Suraaj. It is the way out of the 30-year slavery. This is the BJP's character. You tell me, an ordinary trader who has entered politics, if the Home Minister calls him, what option does he have?" Kishor said.

In Danapur, the NDA's candidate, a strongman, ensured that Mutur Shah did not file his nominations. Showing a picture of Shah with Union Ministers, Kishor said Mutur Shah did not have any option.

In Brahmapur, a seat that Chirag Paswan had fought for, the NDA fielded Hulas Pandey, a key aide of Chirag. Jan Suraaj's candidate, Satya Prakash Tiwari, had campaigned for three days. "Yesterday, he withdrew his nomination. And see the picture behind the scenes," Kishor said, showing a photo of Sinha with Pradhan.

Similarly, in Gopalganj, Jan Suraaj candidate Shashi Shekhar Sinha was campaigning for the party till 8 pm. "By 11 pm, a BJP MLC and other leaders met him and he withdrew," Kishor alleged, showing yet another picture of the candidate with some BJP leaders.

"Bihar needs to know if Jan Suraaj's leaders are running away or if democracy is being murdered. Candidates are being threatened openly," he said.

He said the Election Commission must intervene to prevent such incidents, otherwise, the trust of the people in it will weaken. "If you are not able to protect the candidates, how will you protect voters?" he said, targeting the EC.

BIHAR VOTES

PRASHANT KISHOR
Jan Suraaj Party chief

"The ruling NDA was so scared of losing the elections that it was threatening Opposition candidates to withdraw from the race. Democracy is being murdered. There has been no such precedent in the country.

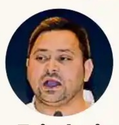
AJAY ALOK
BJP spokesperson

"Since Prashant Kishor was "not getting much attention", he was targeting its leaders to come into the spotlight. Prashant Kishor is a 'painted jackal' whose colour is fading as the polling dates approach. He won't be seen in Bihar after November 14.

Polls by the numbers: Bihar Phase 1 snapshot

Polling date:	Seats:	Nominations filed:	Valid nominations:	Nominations rejected:	Nominations withdrawn:	Candidates in fray:
Nov 6	121 in 18 districts	1,690	1,375	315	61	1,314

Prominent faces

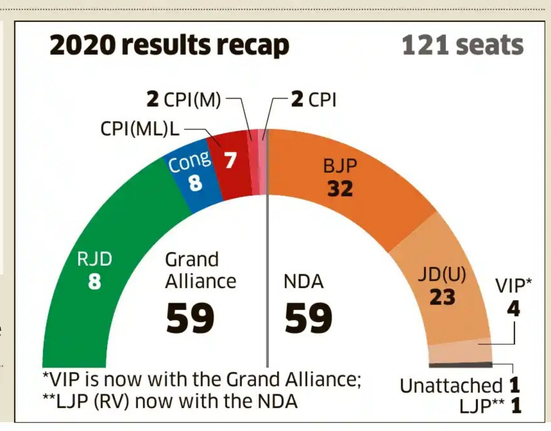


Tejashwi Yadav
RJD (Raghopur)

Samrat Chaudhary
BJP (Tarapur)

Seat dynamics

- **Highest** number of candidates in one seat: **20** (**Muzaffarpur** and **Kurhani**)
- **Lowest** number of candidates in one seat: **5** (**Bhorey, Alauli, Parbatta**)



Nitish garlands female candidate at poll rally, sparks discussion on his mental health

MUZAFFARPUR, PTI: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar gave rise to fresh speculations about his mental health on Tuesday when he insisted on garlanding a female NDA candidate and ticked off a close aide who tried to stop him.

The JD(U) supremo launched his Assembly poll campaign in Meenapur constituency of Muzaffarpur district, where he had the crowds in splits for mispronouncing local party candidate Ajay Kushwaha's name and adding the prefix "Shri" to Rama Nishad, the BJP candidate from Aurai.

The 75-year-old said during his speech that if the public promised to vote for the NDA, he would like to put garlands around the necks of candidates as a mark of assured victory.

Nitish Kumar

Rama, who had joined the BJP last week, was seen squirming when Kumar moved towards her with a garland in his hand.

In local Hindu traditions, a woman cannot let anyone except her husband put a garland around her neck.

Kumar's close aide, Sanjay Kumar Jha, the JD(U)'s working president, hurriedly tried to prevent his mentor from creating a scene by catching hold of the CM's hand.

However, sensing that Kumar was not taking kindly to the intervention, Jha retracted his steps, and the septuagenarian blurted, "You are a strange man. Why are you catching hold of my hand?" snapped Kumar, before placing the garland around the neck of Rama.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav shared the video clip on his X handle with the remark, "He is a strange man indeed. If he is in sound mental health, why is he reading out from a written speech and indulging in such behaviour?"

I.N.D.I.A bloc works to douse 'friendly' fire

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Negotiations are still on within the I.N.D.I.A bloc to minimise friendly fights in the Bihar Assembly elections. Talks yielded some positive results, with the Congress candidate withdrawing from the Lalganj seat in favour of the RJD, reducing the number of seats where both allies are in the fray to four.

The CPI is also expecting that the Congress will withdraw from at least one seat, as discussions among alliance partners continued on Tuesday. At present, the Congress and the RJD are locked in friendly contests in four seats — Narkatiaganj, Vaishali, Sultanganj and Kahalgaon — while the CPI is facing its ally Congress in another four — Bachchwara, Kargahar, Bihar Sharif and Raja Pakar.

Vaishali, Raja Pakar, Bachhwara and Bihar Sharif will go for polls in the first phase on November 6. With the date for withdrawal of nominations over on Monday, all eyes are on the other seats, where the last date of withdrawal is Wednesday.

The RJD had also not fielded a candidate in Kutumba, the sitting seat of Bihar Congress chief Rajesh Ram, setting the stage for further discussions. The RJD and the Congress were fighting in at least five seats against each before the latter's Lalganj candidate withdrew his nominations on Monday.

Face-off

The rejection of the CPI candidate's nomination in Rosera helped the I.N.D.I.A bloc avoid another friendly contest between Congress and the Left, while the RJD and VIP are facing off in two seats—Babuhashi and Chainpur. However, the two parties reached a compromise in Guara Boram and Tarapur. In Tarapur, the RJD and VIP were about to enter into a contest, but talks led to the latter withdrawing its candidate. Then, there was a twist in the tale as Sakaldeo Bind, the VIP candidate, withdrew from the race and joined the BJP.

In Gaura Boram, the RJD decided to back the VIP, which has fielded party chief Mukesh Sahani's younger brother Santosh. RJD candidate Afzal Ali, who had initially filed nominations, refused to withdraw even as party chief Lalu Prasad himself wrote to the Election Commission not to consider him as the party candidate.

Ali remains in the fray, which I.N.D.I.A managers believe could cause confusion among RJD voters.

Parties are also facing rebel trouble. In Parihar, RJD women's wing chief Ritu Jaiswal has filed her nomination as an independent, protesting the party's decision to field the daughter-in-law of former state president Ram Chandra Purve.

The Congress is also facing internal trouble as independent MP Pappu Yadav, who is aligned with the Congress, managed to get tickets for his supporters in place of sitting MLAs.

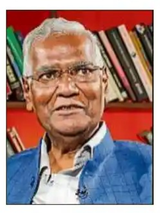
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav and CPI (ML) Liberation General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya during the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra', in Bihar. PTI FILE

TICKET TENSIONS

- Cong reduces friendly fights with RJD to four seats
- CPI expects Cong to step aside in one more seat
- Cong vs RJD in Narkatiaganj, Vaishali, Sultanganj, Kahalgaon
- CPI vs Cong in Bachchwara, Kargahar, Bihar Sharif, Raja Pakar

Poll diary

'Grand alliance will shape national politics'



CPI general secretary D Raja said the Mahagathbandhan will win the Bihar elections, influencing national politics. He claimed BJP-JD(U) are rattled, as people back the alliance's campaign against voter irregularities. Raja added that Tejashwi Yadav is a key leader and the CM candidate will be decided without conflict.

AIMIM backs Cong in Jubilee Hills bypoll

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi announced on Tuesday that his party will support Congress candidate Naveen Yadav in the Jubilee Hills Assembly bypoll on November 11. Owaisi stated the decision was based on the belief that Yadav's election would not affect the current government, but could bring development.

UP Cong mobilised for campaign

The UP Congress has directed its units in Bihar-bordering districts to support I.N.D.I.A bloc candidates in Bihar's Assembly polls. Leaders with ties to Bihar are encouraged to campaign in nearby constituencies. The initiative aims to leverage local influence, with coordinated support based on geographic and familial connections.

650 MCC violation plaints registered

Between October 6 and 21, 650 complaints of Model Code of Conduct violations were filed using the C-Vigil App during Bihar elections and bypolls in seven states, reports DHNS. Of these, 94% were resolved within 100 minutes. The Election Commission also seized Rs 71.32 crore in illegal goods.

University of London professor deported from Delhi Airport

NEW DELHI, PTI: A professor associated with the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London was deported from the IGI Airport over alleged violation of visa conditions, sources said on Tuesday.

Francesca Orsini, a scholar of Hindi and professor emerita at SOAS, was deported on Monday, soon after she arrived from Hong Kong, a source in the Ministry of Home Affairs said. Orsini has been on a 'Black List' since March 2025 for violation of visa conditions, they said.

"Francesca Orsini was on a tourist visa, but she has been violating visa conditions," the source said.

"This is a standard global practice that if a person is found violating visa conditions, he/she can be blacklisted," the source said.

The scholar is known for her book *The Hindi Public Sphere 1920-1940: Language and Literature in the Age of Nationalism*.

Reacting to her deportation, historian Ramachandra Guha termed Orsini a great scholar of Indian literature, "whose work has richly illuminated our understanding of our own cultural heritage."

"To deport her without reason is the mark of a government that is insecure, paranoid, and even stupid," Guha wrote on X. Orisini had reportedly last visited India in October 2024.

Upset with Suresh Gopi's 'behaviour', 4 BJP workers quit

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: A group of BJP workers from Thrissur in Kerala reportedly decided to quit the party and joined the Congress, expressing displeasure towards Union Minister of State for Tourism and Petroleum Suresh Gopi.

Four BJP workers from Varandarappilly in the suburbs of Thrissur quit the party, expressing displeasure over Suresh Gopi's attitude at 'kalingu samvadam' (culvert talks), an informal interactive session being organised by Gopi.

Earlier also Gopi's culvert talk faced criticism after he turned down the requests of people from weaker sections seeking support for house construction, as well as help for recovering deposits from cooperative banks in the state.

BJP activists Prasad, Suresh, Salini and Rajasree decided to leave the party. They told the local media that they were unhappy with Gopi's attitude towards the common man and hence they decided to quit the party.

Raising many eyebrows, Gopi recently stated that RSS leader from Kerala, Sadanandan Master, who was recently nominated to the Rajya Sabha from Kerala, should be made a union minister by replacing him, adding after becoming a union minister, he couldn't act much in films and it was affecting his income.

Rajnath warns of rising 'ideological wars'

NEW DELHI, PTI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday emphasised the shifting landscape of the country's security challenges, noting that while the nation grapples with border instability, society faces a new surge in sophisticated crimes, terrorism and "ideological wars".

Speaking on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, Singh underscored the critical need to balance external and internal security to achieve the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

"Areas that were once known as the red corridor have now transformed into growth corridors," the defence minister said, highlighting the significant progress made against the Naxal problem, long a major internal security challenge, and credited the concerted and organised efforts of the police, CRPF, BSF and local administration.

'Pichai chose Bharat': Lokesh amid row over Google deal

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Andhra Pradesh bagging the $15-billion investment by Google to set up an Artificial Intelligence (AI) hub in Visakhapatnam continues to send ripples across neighbouring states.

After Karnataka, politicians in Tamil Nadu are trying to put the ruling DMK on the mat, seeking to know why such a huge investment went to Andhra Pradesh, not Chennai, which is a traditional hub for data centres.

The AIADMK, the principal Opposition party, also dragged Sundar Pichai into the row by seeking to know why the DMK could not clinch the deal despite the CEO of Alphabet, which owns Google, hailing from the state.

As the row intensified, Andhra Pradesh Information Technology Minister Nara Lokesh weighed in once again, merely saying, "He (Pichai) chose Bharat."

Sundar Pichai

On Monday, AIADMK deputy floor leader in the Assembly, RB Udayakumar, accused the ruling DMK of missing a "historic opportunity" to bring the investment to Tamil Nadu.

"Google CEO Sundar Pichai is a Tamil. Despite his deep connection with Tamil Nadu, the government failed to woo Google. As a result, the AI lab has now gone to Andhra Pradesh. I don't think this is a mere investment but a golden opportunity for the state to emerge as a hub for AI and innovation in the country," he said.

Responding to Udhayakumar, Industries Minister TRB Raaja said Tamil Nadu has now become the locus of Apple manufacturing with the presence of Foxconn, Pegatron and Tata Electronics.

Lokpal wants 7 luxury cars worth Rs 5 cr

Proposal sparks outrage from Oppn leaders, activists

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman, has floated a tender to procure seven BMW cars, valued at around Rs 5 crore, a move that has attracted criticism.

The tender is for the supply of seven BMW 3 Series 330Li cars. It has specified that it should be an 'M Sport' model with a long wheelbase and in white colour. The on-road price of this car is around Rs 69.5 lakh in the national capital.

At present, the Lokpal has seven members against its sanctioned strength of eight.

"Impressive in every way, the 3 Series LWB is the most powerful car in its segment with the most advanced technology," the BMW website said.

Criticising the move, prominent lawyer Prashant Bhushan posted on 'X', "The institution of Lokpal has been ground to dust by the Modi govt, by keeping it vacant for many years & then appointing servile members who are not bothered by graft & are happy with their luxuries. They are now buying 7 0L BMW cars for themselves."

Congress' Shama Mohamed said on 'X', "Lokpal wants to buy 7 luxury BMW cars worth Rs 5 crore for itself. This is the same institution that was supposed to fight corruption after the so-called 'India Against Corruption' movement -- a movement backed by the RSS and designed only to bring down the Congress government."

Former Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant also joined the debate. "They need to cancel this tender and go in for 'Make in India' electric vehicles - either Mahindra's XEV 9E, BE 6 or Tata's Harrier EV. They are top-class vehicles," he said.

The tender notice said the Lokpal of India invites open tenders from reputed agencies for the supply of seven BMW 3 Series Li cars. The starting date for bid submission was October 17, and the deadline is November 6. The bid evaluation process will begin on November 7.

The delivery of cars will "preferably (be) two weeks but not later than 30 days from the date of issuing of the supply order", the document said. "No extension of time will be given," it said.

The selected vendor will have to conduct a comprehensive practical and theoretical training programme for the drivers and other designated staff members of the Lokpal to "ensure efficient, safe and optimal operation" of the BMW vehicles supplied, the tender document said.

The training should be for a minimum duration of seven days and to be completed within 15 days from the date of delivery of vehicles.

Each designated driver shall undergo driving practice for a minimum of 50 kilometres and up to 100 kilometres if needed, on a case-by-case basis, it said.

HIGH-END DEMAND

- The anti-corruption ombudsman wants 7 BMW 330Li M Sport sedans in white, with a long-wheelbase design
- Each Lokpal member, including Chairperson Justice AM Khanwilkar (retd), to receive one car.
- The vendor must conduct training for drivers & designated staff members

- People question the institution's priorities. Suggest opting for an Indian brand.

Former Punjab DGP and minister booked over advocate son's death

CHANDIGARH/PATIALA, PTI: Punjab's former director general of police Mohammad Mustafa and his wife Razia Sultana, a former state minister, have been booked in connection with the death of their 35-year-old son in Panchkula, the Haryana Police said on Tuesday.

Aqil Akhter, an advocate, was found dead at his residence in Haryana's Panchkula on October 16. Also booked in the case are Akhter's wife and sister.

The FIR was registered on October 20 under Sections 103 (1) and 61 that deal with murder and criminal conspiracy charges, after a man named Shamshuddin filed a complaint and alleged foul play in the death, saying Akhter died under "suspicious circumstances", the police said.

They have been booked based on Shamshuddin's complaint, which alleged that Akhter had recorded a video levelling serious allegations against his family, officials said, adding a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted to look into the case.

According to Panchkula DCP Srishti Gupta, on October 16, Akhter, a resident of Sector 4, MDC, Panchkula, was found dead at his residence.

The complainant in the case has given an account of the purported video recorded by Akhter in August, in which he has levelled serious allegations against his father and other family members.

Akhter, while referring to the matters pertaining to the family, said in the purported video that he had been going through a lot of stress and mental trauma because of this.

"I feel they will frame me in a false case... Their plan is to have me falsely imprisoned or even killed, but they are unable to have their way," he said in the video.

FAMILY UNDER SCRUTINY

- Aqil Akhter (35), an advocate, was found dead on Oct 16
- Akhter's wife and sister also named in FIR
- Complaint cites video allegedly recorded by Akhter, accusing family of harassment

Revanth urges Maoists to surrender

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday appealed to Maoists to surrender and join the mainstream, urging them to participate in the nation's progress by shunning violence.

Notably, human rights bodies in the past had met Revanth and sought his help to initiate peace talks with the Naxals in the wake of Operation Kagar.

Speaking at the Police Commemoration Day event, the CM said, "Telangana once suffered heavily due to Maoist and terrorist activities. The indomitable spirit of our police has led to a sharp decline in such incidents in recent years." He said several Maoist leaders had already surrendered and called upon others to follow suit and contribute to the state's development.

Paying rich tributes to police martyrs, he said 191 police personnel, including six from Telangana, had laid down their lives in the line of duty across the country.

Amoebic brain infection: One more death in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: A 78-year-old woman from Pothencode, Hasma Beevi, died of amoebic meningoencephalitis while undergoing treatment at Thiruvananthapuram Medical College Hospital, taking the death toll in the state this year to 27.

The source of infection in her case is yet to be identified.

Amoebic meningoencephalitis is a rare but serious brain infection caused by free-living amoeba.

So far, 129 cases of amoebic meningoencephalitis have been reported in Kerala this year. In many instances, the source of infection remains inconclusive.

A month on, grieving father of man shot dead by US Police seeks justice

Before his death, Nizamuddin allegedly faced harassment at workplace

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Mohammed Hasnuddin, a retired government teacher from Telangana's Mahbubnagar, is still struggling to come to terms with the death of his 32-year-old son, Mohammed Nizamuddin.

He was shot dead by Santa Clara police in the United States on September 3 after he allegedly attacked his roommate with a knife.

When Nizamuddin's mortal remains finally reached his home in the last week of September, the grief came with a heavy financial burden.

The family spent Rs 7.6 lakh to bring the body to India, after learning of the incident only two weeks later, on September 18. Hasnuddin now faces another Rs 2.6 lakh expense to bring back his son's belongings.

TAXING

- Family's grief came with a heavy financial burdens. Rs 7.6 lakh spent to bring the body to India.
- Deliberate cover-up and foul play by US police alleged.
- Family yet to receive post-mortem report or any official communication from US authorities.

While alleging a deliberate cover-up and foul play by US police, Hasnuddin is now seeking the help of lawyers, social organisations or human rights organisation from the USA to fight his son's case in a court.

"It's more than 45 days since my son was shot dead, but we have not received the post-mortem report or any official communication from the US authorities or the Ministry of External Affairs. Why was he shot dead within minutes of the police entering the apartment?" Hasnuddin asked.

Hasnuddin described Nizamuddin as a soft-spoken, down-to-earth young man. "I have no strength to fight a case in the US, but I want justice," he added. "We had to arrange Rs 7.6 lakh by pledging a small plot to bring the body," Hasnuddin told *DH*.

Before his death, Nizamuddin had allegedly faced immense professional and emotional distress, according to his LinkedIn post.

He was working for IT consulting firm EPAM Systems, which contracted him to Google. In a detailed LinkedIn post shared weeks before his death, he alleged harassment, racial discrimination, wrongful termination, wage fraud, and torture at his workplace.

In a first for North India, Lucknow rly station gets all-women staff

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a major stride towards women empowerment, Lucknow City Railway Station has been transformed into North India's first fully women-staffed station.

The station is now operated by a team of 34 women managing every aspect of its functioning—from ticketing, reservations to security, signalling, and cleanliness, said Indian Railways in a statement.

"Lucknow City Railway Station under North Eastern Railway Zone, has been transformed into North India's first fully women-staffed station—a shining symbol of progress, pride, and the unstoppable force of Nari Shakti, the statement said.

"This diverse team, hailing from across India, reflects the unity and strength of women in the workforce. It embodies the spirit of 'Nari Shakti – Rashtra Shakti, " the statement added.

At present on a daily basis, the Lucknow City station handles 14 pairs of express and mail trains including Gomtinagar-Mumbai, Gorakhpur-Hyderabad, Barauni-Mumbai, Varanasi City-Lucknow Junction, Farrukhabad-Chhapra, Gorakhpur-Pilibhit and Barauni-Lucknow.

India's first all-women-managed railway station is Matunga railway station in Mumbai, which became fully operated by women staff in 2017.

Northeast monsoon intensifies in TN; red alert for 5 districts

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Tamil Nadu's lifeline, the northeast monsoon, has intensified, with several parts of the state experiencing heavy to very heavy rainfall on Tuesday under the influence of two well-marked low pressures over the southeast Arabian Sea and southwest Bay of Bengal.

The rains will continue till the weekend in most parts of the state, especially in the coastal region, the Cauvery delta region, and Chennai and its neighbouring districts of Tiruvallur, Kanchipuram, and Chengalpattu, till next week. Rameswaram and adjoining areas in Ramanathapuram district bore the maximum brunt, with life being thrown out of gear since Monday night, making it a wet Deepavali.

People at the waterlogged premises of a temple following rain in Chennai on Tuesday. PTI

Rains also lashed several parts of Chennai through Tuesday as the city and its suburbs braced for another spell of intense rains on Wednesday.

A red alert (heavy to extremely heavy rainfall) has been issued to eight districts and a yellow alert (heavy to very heavy rain at a few places with extremely heavy rain at one or two places) to 11 districts, including Chennai and its adjoining areas, prompting the government to appoint special officers to 12 districts to handle the situation.

Chief Minister M K Stalin went into a huddle with his deputy Udhayanidhi and senior government officials to take stock of the situation in rain-affected districts.

Stalin instructed district collectors to ensure that the administration is prepared to handle the heavy rains, including preparing the relief centres to house people who are likely to be evacuated from low-lying areas.

Dalit man thrashed, forced to drink urine in Madhya Pradesh; three held

BHIND, PTI: A 25-year-old Dalit man was allegedly assaulted and forced to drink urine twice in Bhind district of Madhya Pradesh, leading to the arrest of three individuals, police said on Tuesday.

Prima facie, the main accused targeted the man after he quit working as his driver, an official said, adding that further investigation is underway.

According to the complainant, three persons abducted him from Gwalior on Monday and brought him to Bhind in a vehicle, where he was beaten and forced to drink urine, said Additional Superintendent of Police Sanjeev Pathak.

The victim is a resident of Akutpura village in the Surpura police station area of Bhind.

"A case has been registered under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and under relevant sections of the BNS for kidnapping, assault, and inhuman treatment", Pathak said, adding that the three arrested accused are identified as Sonu Barua, Alok Sharma, and Chhotu Ojha.

The victim is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital.

Speaking to reporters, the victim claimed that he was abducted from his in-laws' home in Deendayal Nagar area of Gwalior and taken to Bhind in an SUV.

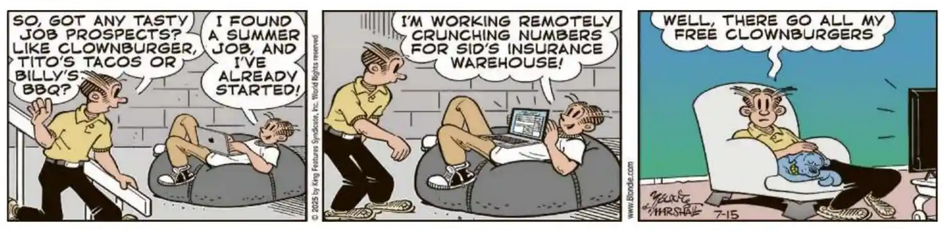
He was beaten with a plastic pipe, he said, adding that the trio stopped the vehicle midway and forced him to drink urine from a bottle.

The victim was taken to Akutpura village, where he was tied with an iron chain and was forced to drink urine again.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie


SO, GOT ANY TASTY JOB PROSPECTS? LIKE CLOWNBURGER, TITO'S TACOS OR BILLY'S BBQ?
I FOUND A SUMMER JOB, AND I'VE ALREADY STARTED!
I'M WORKING REMOTELY CRUNCHING NUMBERS FOR SID'S INSURANCE WAREHOUSE!
WELL, THERE GO ALL MY FREE CLOWNBURGERS
7-15

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

ARE YOU SEEING BEETLE THIS WEEKEND?
I DON'T KNOW. HE'S GOING PILLOW SHOPPING.
THAT SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG
HE TENDS TO FALL ASLEEP WHEN TESTING THEM.
7/2
GREG + MORT WALKER

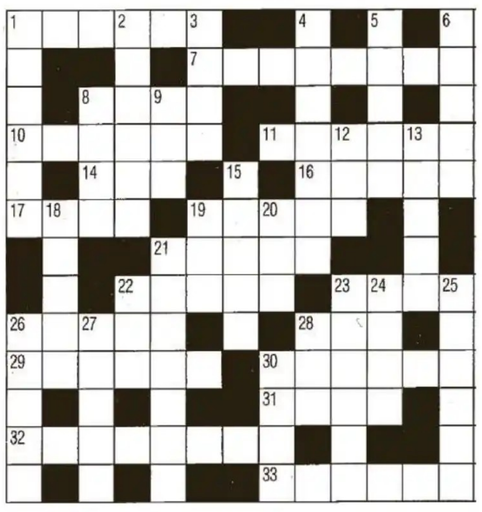
Peanuts

"WRITE A THOUSAND-WORD ESSAY ON LOUIS XIV AND HIS ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ACADÉMIE ROYALE de DANSE"
"IDENTIFY REFERENCES AND SOURCE MATERIAL BY CHAPTER AND PAGE"
NO, MA'AM, I'M NOT SLEEPING...
I JUST PASSED OUT!

Marvin

I TOLD MY MOM IT REALLY GOT ON MY NERVES THE WAY MY BABY SISTER CRIES SO MUCH
SHE SAID WHEN I WAS A BABY I CRIED NONSTOP
PARENTS LOVE DREDGING UP THINGS FROM OUR PAST TO MAKE A POINT

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12272



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 An English part, no longer Othello, for instance (6)
7 One making a speech at Number Ten - to music (8)
8 Runs a great distance, but she's no Amazon! (4)
10 Wearing such an expression, Enid was upset by dad (6)
11 Source of a drama in history (6)
14 Where there's said to be a queue (3)
16 Edward tours the kingdom getting drastically treated! (5)
17 Always highly regarded in red (4)
19 Sphere of the true leader of men (5)
21 Agree the total (5)
22 How far anger can get you (5)
23 Economies with meat? (4)
26 Said to be soft hearted and with good taste (5)
28 'Cause you can eat it! (3)
29 Shows preference for the soft chunks (6)
30 A romance eventually finished, but very nice (6)
31 Frightened on a Wednesday (4)
32 Like crazy driving - though without a crash, we're told (8)
33 It's the transposition of taxes (6)

DOWN
1 Pass, as time spent asleep, maybe (6)
2 Batsman or cracksman? (6)
3 The way to upset Dora (4)
4 How to reproach the backward? (7)
5 Eccentric faker, far from normal (5)
6 Can't he keep a regular place? (5)
8 Left Isaac, just the same (4)
9 Without experience in mine working (3)
12 She's not talking (3)
13 Many felt moved by such pottery (5)
15 After Beethoven's fifth, she gives us a bit of Elgar (5)
18 Necessary quarter-pint in a bottle (5)
19 Organised hurriedly? (3)
20 Adam's is alcohol free (3)
21 A little upright creature? (7)
22 With a redhead, I'm on edge (3)
23 Being secretive, finished in court (6)
24 American name for "second-hand" (4)
25 Dorothy composed an essay about summer's end (6)
26 Muriel, that bright novelist (5)
27 He has impact in children's entertainment (5)
28 Frighten the college head with a sudden cry (3)
30 The ultimate in cataclysmal astonishment! (4)

ACROSS
1 Stops (6)
7 Handover (8)
8 Yield (4)
10 Accumulate (4,2)
11 Serving dish (6)
14 Primate (3)
16 Truck (5)
17 Catch sight of (4)
19 Be suitable to (5)
21 Man's name (5)
22 Synthetic fibre (5)
23 Cedar, say (4)
26 Engine (5)
28 Female person (3)
29 Stick (6)
30 Exclamation of discovery (6)
31 Seep (4)
32 Virtually (2,4,2)
33 Breathe out (6)

DOWN
1 Colour (6)
2 Drowsy (6)
3 Pace (4)
4 Pancreatic hormone (7)
5 Following in time (5)
6 Salty (5)
8 Applaud (4)
9 Owing (3)
12 Decompose (3)
13 Wear away (5)
15 Under (5)
18 Church council (5)
19 Young male (3)
20 Flipper (3)
21 Putrefying flesh (7)
22 Fish eggs (3)
23 Trounce (6)
24 Stink (4)
25 Empower (6)
26 Kind of parrot (5)
27 Ruffians (5)
28 Prosecute (3)
30 Otherwise (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12271

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Scott 6, D-evil 9, W-E-ather 10, La-t-in 11, Li-S-ps 12, Ma-Gl-c 13, Catch up 15, Jig(-saw) 17, U-tah 18, Th-Ron-e 19, Smart 20, Friday 22, Pict 24, Sat. 25, Curlers 26, St.-out 27, Pippa 28, H-a-bit 29, Aspirin 30, NE-Ath 31, Strew.
DOWN: 2, Cra-VAT 3, T-witch 4, Ten 5, Strap (rev.) 6, Delight 7, Eric 8, In Pa-I-n 12, Mummy 13, Cuffs 14, Tac-it 15, Jodie 16, Gents 18, Trout 19, Salt-ash 21, R-apin-E 22, PI-I-ant 23, Cruise 25, Cur-i.e. 26, Spat 28, His.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Earth 6, Cramp 9, Heave-ho 10, Koran 11, Early 12, Adder 13, Fatigue 15, Let 17, Ekes 18, Salute 19, Pinch 20, Slight 22, Meet 24, Tad 25, Locusts 26, Snoop 27, Nonet 28, Night 29, Motives 30, Denim 31, Whisk.
DOWN: 2, Anorak 3, That is 4, Hen 5, Evade 6, Cheetah 7, Roar 8, Mallet 12, Audit 13, Feast 14, Tepid 15, Lures 16, Tents 18, Scoop 19, Phantom 21, Lahore 22, Mulish 23, Etches 25, Logic 26, Semi 28, New.

◆SU-DO-KU-6732◆

6			3		1			
							2	1
4	2			5		9		
5	6							
	7		6	3	9		4	
							7	2
		7		9			6	8
8	3							
			8		6			4

medium

9	6	3	7	1	4	5	8	2
7	5	8	3	9	2	1	6	4
1	2	4	8	6	5	3	9	7
6	9	5	4	2	7	8	3	1
8	7	1	5	3	6	2	4	9
4	3	2	1	8	9	6	7	5
3	4	7	2	5	8	9	1	6
2	8	9	6	4	1	7	5	3
5	1	6	9	7	3	4	2	8

SOLUTION TO 6731

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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T1	A1	I1	U1	S1	R1	L1		RACK 1
U1	O1	C3	D2	T1	R1	P3	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
M3	P3	S1	R1	R1	O1	R1	4th Letter Double	RACK 3
U1	A1	E1	G2	S1	D2	S1	Double Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155
by JUDD
FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

P3	E1	N1	N1	A1	T1	E1	RACK 1 =	68
M3	A1	G2	N1	U1	M3		RACK 2 =	11
I1	N1	S1	I1	G2	H4	T1	RACK 3 =	83
L1	I1	B3	R1	A1	R1	Y4	RACK 4 =	65

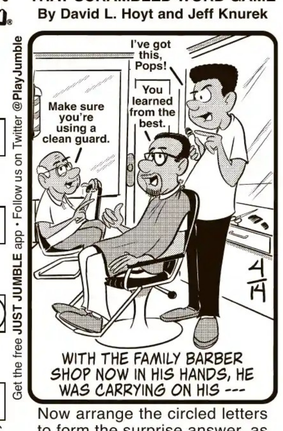
PAR SCORE 150-160 JUDD'S TOTAL 227

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GRACO
TUHTR
GHAELG
NIEVID


I've got this, Pops!
Make sure you're using a clean guard.
You learned from the best.
WITH THE FAMILY BARBER SHOP NOW IN HIS HANDS, HE WAS CARRYING ON HIS ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play_Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " ○○○○○ - ○○○○○○ "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: RERUN DRILL ACTUAL SWERVE
Answer: The Jack Russell loved the sofa, which was in bad shape due to the — WEAR AND "TERRIER"

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HITORI-3186

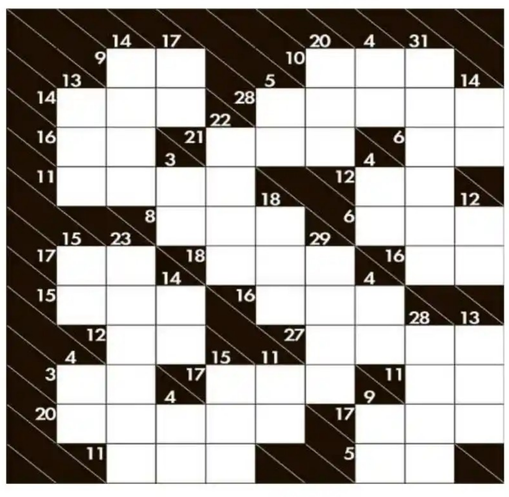
4	4	8	6	7	6	8	5
1	6	7	4	4	3	5	7
7	8	5	1	5	8	2	3
3	5	2	7	2	4	6	8
2	1	6	4	8	5	4	3
8	7	1	5	4	6	2	4
6	4	8	6	3	2	1	7
4	8	1	3	5	8	6	8

SOLUTION TO 3185

8	6	1	■	5	■	7	■
■	5	3	7	4	6	2	8
2	7	■	5	■	8	■	4
6	■	7	1	3	■	4	5
■	4	5	8	■	1	6	7
5	3	6	■	8	4	■	2
4	1	■	6	■	2	8	■
■	8	2	4	7	■	1	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3186



SOLUTION TO 3185

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3713

9	8			4				
		4		2		3		
						9		
4				9	5			
8	5			7				
7	1			3				4
5		6					3	

SOLUTION TO 3712

4	3	1	6	2	5	9	7	8
5	7	6	8	9	3	1	2	4
2	9	8	7	4	1	3	6	5
7	4	5	3	8	6	2	1	9
3	6	2	1	5	9	8	4	7
1	8	9	4	7	2	5	3	6
8	2	7	9	1	4	6	5	3
6	1	4	5	3	8	7	9	2
9	5	3	2	6	7	4	8	1

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

India upgrades technical mission in Kabul to embassy

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Tuesday announced upgrading its technical mission in Kabul to the status of an embassy as part of broader efforts to deepen its bilateral engagement with Kabul.

The announcement came over a week-and-a-half after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said during his meeting with Afghan counterpart Amir Khan Muttaqi that India will upgrade its diplomatic presence in Kabul.

India had withdrawn its officials from its embassy in Kabul after the Taliban seized power in August 2021. In June 2022, India re-established its diplomatic presence in the Afghan capital by deploying a "technical team".

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the Indian embassy in Kabul will further augment India's contribution to Afghanistan's comprehensive development, humanitarian assistance, and capacity-building initiatives.

"In keeping with the decision announced during the recent visit of the Afghan foreign minister to India, the government is restoring the status of the technical mission of India in Kabul to that of the Embassy of India in Afghanistan with immediate effect," it said.

The MEA said the decision underscores India's resolve to deepen its bilateral engagement with the Afghan side in "all spheres of mutual interest".

"The Embassy of India in Kabul will further augment India's contribution to Afghanistan's comprehensive development, humanitarian assistance, and capacity-building initiatives, in keeping with the priorities and aspirations of Afghan society," it said in a statement.

Ultraconservative Takaichi becomes Japan's first female PM

New leader faces scrutiny over gender and historical views

TOKYO, AP/PTI

Sanae Takaichi, a star of ultraconservative Japanese politics and a rare woman to rise in its male-dominated hierarchy, has been elected the country's first female prime minister.

Takaichi, 64, is also the first woman to lead the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has dominated Japan's post-war politics almost without interruption.

She admires former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and supports the conservative vision of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

A China hawk, she is a regular visitor to the Yasukuni Shrine — regarded by China, the two Koreas, and other Asian nations affected by Japan's wartime aggression as a symbol that glorifies its military past.

The leader of a country that ranks poorly on global gender equality indexes, Takaichi rarely mentioned the issue during her campaign.

After winning the presidency of the ruling party, she remarked: "Now that the LDP has its first female president, its scenery will change a little."

First elected to parliament from her hometown of Nara in 1993, she has served in key party and government posts, including minister of economic security, internal affairs, and gender equality, though her diplomatic experience remains limited.

She has called for a stronger military, greater fiscal spending to boost growth, the promotion of nuclear fusion, enhanced cybersecurity, and tougher policies on immigration.

As a student, Takaichi was a drummer in a heavy-metal band and rode a motorcycle.

She describes herself as a workaholic who prefers working at home to socialising. After two unsuccessful bids to lead the LDP, she said she had made efforts to build stronger connections with colleagues.

Japan's new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi poses for a photo during her first press conference in Tokyo on Tuesday. AFP

Modi may meet Takaichi in Kuala Lumpur

As Sanae Takaichi took over as Japan's prime minister, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated her and stressed that India's relations with Japan was vital for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, DHNS reports from New Delhi.

Modi is likely to have his first meeting with Takaichi on the sidelines of the ASEAN conclave and the East Asian Summit in Kuala Lumpur next week. "Heartiest congratulations, Sanae Takaichi, on your election as the Prime Minister of Japan. I look forward to working closely with you to further strengthen the India–Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership," Modi posted on X. "Our deepening ties are vital for peace, stability, and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific and beyond."

Plans for Trump-Putin meet shelved days after Budapest talks proposal

Summit preparations appear stalled after Rubio-Lavrov meeting postponed

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

Plans are on hold for President Donald Trump to sit down with Russian leader Vladimir Putin to talk about resolving the war in Ukraine.

The decision was made following a call between US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, officials said on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorised to speak publicly. There are no plans for "in the immediate future," a senior White House official said on Tuesday, days after Trump floated another summit with his Russian counterpart.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov also have no plans to meet in person, the official said, describing their call on Monday as "productive."

Moscow's rejection of an immediate ceasefire in Ukraine appears to have put a summit between Trump and Putin in jeopardy, diplomats said on Tuesday, after a preparatory meeting between the top US and Russian diplomats was postponed.

European leaders urged Washington on Tuesday to hold firm in demanding an immediate ceasefire in Ukraine, with present battle lines serving as the basis for any future talks.

OpenAI unveils search browser

SAN FRANCISCO, AFP: ChatGPT-maker OpenAI on Tuesday announced an "Atlas" search browser, leveraging its artificial intelligence prowess in a direct challenge to Google Chrome.

"This is an AI-powered web browser built around ChatGPT," OpenAI chief Sam Altman said in a streamed presentation. OpenAI has ramped up its challenge to Google, which has responded by rapidly building more AI capabilities into search and across its platform.

Altman and a team of executives demonstrated an "agent" mode that has a chatbot conduct searches on a user's behalf.

Altman said that in agent mode, ChatGPT uses the web browser independently, returning with what it finds. "It's got all your stuff and is clicking around," Altman said. "You can watch it or not, you don't have to, but it's using the internet for you."

Atlas will go live Tuesday on computers powered by Apple's operating system, but agent mode will only be available to users of Plus or Pro versions of ChatGPT, according to Altman.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

France's former president Nicolas Sarkozy with his wife Carla Bruni leaves his residence to present himself to La Sante Prison in Paris on Tuesday. AFP

Former French prez Sarkozy begins 5-yr prison sentence

▶ Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy arrived at a prison in Paris on Tuesday to begin serving a 5-year sentence for a criminal conspiracy to finance his 2007 election campaign with funds from Libya, AP/PTI reports from Paris.

He is the first ex-leader of modern France to be imprisoned. Sarkozy, hand-in-hand with his wife Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, left home before getting into a car and travelling to the La Sante prison. On his way to prison, Sarkozy said in a statement released on social media that "an innocent man" was being locked up. He was convicted last month for criminal conspiracy in a scheme to finance his 2007 election campaign with funds from Libya. Sarkozy contests both the conviction and a judge's unusual decision to incarcerate him pending appeal. His journey from the presidential Elysee Palace to the notorious La Sante prison in Paris has captivated France. Hundreds of supporters applauded and chanted "Nicolas, Nicolas" and sang the French anthem.

Sarkozy's lawyers said the former president will be held in solitary confinement, where he will be kept away from all other prisoners for security reasons.

Mosquitoes discovered in Iceland

▶ Mosquitoes have been discovered in Iceland in a first for the island nation, which has long been one of the world's mosquito-free places, AFP reports from Reykjavik.

Three Culiseta annulata mosquitoes, two females and one male, were sighted around 30 kilometres north of the capital Reykjavik, according to Matthias Alfredsson, an entomologist at the Natural Science Institute of Iceland.

"They were all collected from wine ropes... aimed at attracting moths," a researcher said in an email, referring to a method of adding sugar to heated wine and dipping ropes or strips of fabric into the solution, which are then hung outside to entice the sweet-toothed insects.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

China files complaint against India's PLI schemes for auto, EV policy

Says they violate WTO norms

NEW DELHI, PTI

China has alleged that certain conditions in India's production linked incentive (PLI) schemes for advanced chemistry cell battery, automobiles and the policy to promote the manufacturing of electric vehicles violate global trade rules, and has filed a complaint against these measures at the WTO.

According to a communication of the Geneva-based WTO, China has sought consultations with India on these measures under WTO's dispute settlement mechanism.

Beijing has stated that measures adopted by India are contingent upon the use of domestic over imported goods and discriminate against goods of Chinese origin.

These measures appear to be inconsistent with India's obligations under the SCM (Subsidies and Countervailing Measures) Agreement, the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) 1994 and the TRIMs (Trade-Related Investment Measures) Agreement.

"...as a consequence of the foregoing, the measures at issue appear to nullify or impair benefits accruing to China, directly or indirectly, under the cited agreements," the WTO's communication dated October 20 has said.

China looks forward to receiving India's reply and to agreeing on a mutually convenient date for the consultations, it added.

This request concerns certain measures maintained by India that affect trade in the automotive and renewable energy technology sectors. Specifically, it relates to certain requirements that condition eligibility for, and the disbursement of, incentives under these programmes, it said.

In its complaint, China has mentioned three programmes - PLI, National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage; PLI for Automobile and Auto Component Industry; and Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India.

Both India and China are members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). If a member country believes that a support measure under a policy or scheme of another member nation is harming its exports of certain goods, it can file a complaint under the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO.

Seeking consultation is the first step of the dispute settlement process as per WTO rules.

If the consultations requested with India do not result in a satisfactory solution, the EU can request that the WTO set up a panel in the case to rule on the issue raised.

China is the second-largest trading partner of India.

In the last fiscal, India's exports to China contracted 14.5% to $14.25 billion against $16.66 billion in 2023-24. The imports, however, rose by 11.52% in 2024-25 to $113.45 billion against $101.73 billion in 2023-24.

India's trade deficit with China has widened to $99.2 billion during 2024-25.

China's complaint about India's reported EV subsidies comes as Beijing seeks to boost exports of its electric vehicles to India. Considering the size and scope of India's auto market, Chinese EV automakers see it as a major source to expand sales.

According to recent reports, facing overcapacity with large production of EVs and declining domestic sales and profits amid price wars, Chinese hybrid car makers like BYD are looking for overseas markets, especially in the EU and Asia.

According to the data from China Passenger Car Association (CPCA), 50-odd EV builders of China exported a total of 2.01 million pure electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles overseas in the first eight months of the year, up 51% from the same period a year earlier.

But the Chinese EV makers are facing push back abroad as the EU has imposed a 27% tariff on Chinese EVs to limit their sales in the bloc.

The Indian government approved the PLI ACC scheme under "National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage" in May 2021, with an outlay of Rs 18,100 crore for 50 GWh capacity for five years after a gestation period of two years. The scheme aims to enhance domestic cell production.

IT firms upskilling employees to make them AI-ready

This is in pursuit of future deals & also for internal functions

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

With artificial intelligence (AI) making inroads in all deals, IT services firms are now focusing on upskilling their employees to ensure they have AI-ready talent in case of new deal wins, as every deal across verticals has some form of AI embedded into it. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has trained about 1,60,000 employees in AI.

Aarthi Subramanian, Executive Director - President and Chief Operating Officer, TCS, during the second quarter company's earnings conference, mentioned that over 10,000 of the company's sales and delivery leaders have gone through an immersive and hands-on AI Dojo programme that the firm has rolled out.

"To make everyone in TCS to be AI-first, we have democratised access to AI learning by enabling various AI tools & environments for our employees to explore, experiment, learn and embed AI in their work," she said.

"We are looking at our internal functions like finance, HR, legal and all other internal functions and our own IT operation, including how we support our system as well as build systems. In HR, we have been reimagining how we look at our employee engagements with an AI-first approach, and we are also looking at rolling out a learning co-pilot for every associate," she added.

HCLTech, which generated over $100 million in Advanced AI revenue in Q2, is embracing the "transformation from a people-based business towards a model that seamlessly blends AI IP with human-in-the-loop capabilities". C Vijayakumar, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, HCLTech, said that they continue to train people in AI.

The company has also undertaken an AI skills standardisation framework and has identified 14 top AI skills for scaling its AI talent base.

Earlier this month, HCLTech joined the MIT Media Lab in the US to collaborate on next-gen AI research. The second-largest IT services firm, Infosys, has trained over 275,000 employees in AI and generative AI as of June this year.

"Our proactive investments, over the last three years, in embracing an AI-first culture within Infosys have ensured that our people are reskilled to thrive in a human+AI workplace," Salil Parekh, CEO and MD, Infosys, said.

Nachiket Deshpande resigns as President from LTIMindtree

BENGALURU, DHNS: LTIMindtree on Monday announced the resignation of Nachiket Deshpande as whole-time Director and President with effect from October 31, 2025. Deshpande will explore new opportunities beyond LTIMindtree.

Nachiket Deshpande

He has been a member of the erstwhile LTI Board and presently the LTIMindtree Board since 2019, making significant contributions to the company's strategic direction and growth, the company said in a BSE filing.

"LTIMindtree has been more than a workplace; it has been a crucible of innovation, leadership, and personal growth," Deshpande said.

SN Subrahmanyan, chairman of LTIMindtree, said, "His leadership and unwavering commitment have been pivotal in shaping the foundation for the next phase of growth for LTIMindtree."

Diwali sales cross record Rs 6L cr: CAIT

NEW DELHI, PTI

Diwali sales touched a record Rs 6.05 lakh crore -- comprising Rs 5.40 lakh crore in goods and Rs 65,000 crore in services -- buoyed by the recent GST reform and strong consumer sentiment, traders' lobby CAIT said on Tuesday.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) based its findings on a nation-wide survey across 60 major distribution centres including state capitals and Tier 2 & 3 cities conducted by its research wing.

Last year, the Diwali sales stood at Rs 4.25 lakh crore, according to CAIT.

Mainline retail -- particularly non-corporate and traditional markets -- contributed 85% to the total trade, underscoring a powerful comeback of India's physical markets and small traders, CAIT stated.

Sector wise percentage of sales of prominent festive items included grocery & FMCG 12%, gold & jewellery 10%, electronic & electrical items 8%, consumer durables 7%, readymade garments 7%, gift Items 7%, and home décor 5%.

Equity benchmarks inch toward 1-year highs in special Diwali session

REUTERS: Benchmarks inched higher in the special Diwali session on Tuesday, extending their recent rally on optimism over earnings and potential easing of US-China trade tensions.

The Nifty 50 rose 0.1% to 25,868.6 and the BSE Sensex rose 0.07% to84,426.34, their highest close since September 2024.

Key infrastructure sectors' growth at 3% in September

NEW DELHI, PTI: India's eight key infrastructure sectors' output stood at 3% in September, slower than the 6.5%expansion recorded in August, according to official data released on Tuesday. The core sectors' output growth was 2.4% in September last year.

In September this year, these eight sectors recorded the lowest growth in the last three months due to a fall in the output of coal, crude oil, refinery products and natural gas.

The growth rate in the production of fertiliser and cement slowed to 1.6% and 5.3% during the month under review against 1.9% and 7.6%, respectively, in September 2024. However, steel and electricity output increased 14.1% and 2.1%, respectively, on a year-on-year basis in September.

During April-September of this fiscal year, the eight infrastructure sectors expanded by 2.9%.

Kavin - Living his father's unrealised dreams on the track

Trained by Bindu Rani, the Bengaluru athlete has stacked up medals in sprint and long jump events

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

They say it takes a village to raise an athlete but in the Dayalamurthy household, Yadavan has taken up a major chunk of that responsibility.

His routine has been the same for a good part of Kavin Yadavan's journey. Set an alarm for 4:00 am and wake his son up. Between 5:00 am to 6:00 am, drive to practice, which is 16 km away. Observe and analyse practice. And once it concludes, drive Kavin back for school. Next, travel to work which is again 15 km away. While it gets done by 8:00 pm, the return time varies, but none of which affects the routine from 4:00 am the next morning.

While Dayalan could not live his dreams, he has diligently plotted a pathway for his kid, who he thinks can go big.

"I have seen a spark in him (Kavin). I am confident he can do it in athletics. So if he's happy to work hard, I, as a parent, should help him," Yadavan tells *DH*.

Kavin was about five when Yadavan spotted something different about him.

"So in pre-KG, they had a sports event where he ran 50m and won. There was also a little distance between him and the others. The style of how he ran, his footwork was different, and we thought, why not give it a try?"

At this point, Yadavan decided to go all in. The promise Kavin had shown at that age pushed his father to put him in an athletics club at the age of eight.

Three years on, the gamble has paid off as Kavin, who trains under Bindu Rani, has managed to win 33 medals (19 gold, eight silver and six bronze) in the last two years across long jump, 100m, 50m and 4x100m relay events.

The consistency in medals and some advice pushed them to post videos on social media.

While Kavin stepped on podiums, Yadavan stacked the videos up, which caught the international eye. And then, UAE Ultimate Athletics came calling.

"Once we started to showcase our journey on social media, we got an invite from Ultimate Athletics. We registered. There were athletes from around the world."

However, it wasn't as easy to make the trip. While the talent was there, the pockets were not as full. But that did not stop them.

Yadavan started approaching brands, one after the other. While the persistence kept the wheel spinning, Athrise, a start-up, took a chance. The sponsorship money, along with help from Yadavan's friend circle, helped Kavin to fly to the event.

And of course, he didn't disappoint—gold in long jump, silver in 75m hurdles and bronze in 80m sprint.

Kavin, who has drawn inspiration from Ancy Sojan, is daring, dreams big and one who has backed up words with hard work.

For feedback, email to dhsports@deccanherald.co.in

FACT FILE
Kavin Yadavan
Age: 11

- **Major achievements:** Ultimate Race Night (Long Jump): gold; (85m hurdles): silver; (80m sprint): bronze
- **Dream dash (100m):** Karnataka qualifying gold; Mumbai final: gold
- Rovers National level meet (long jump): bronze
- State level meets (50m hurdles, 75m, 100m): two gold, two silver, three bronze
- Junior athlete meet (100m, 50m, 4x100m relay) two gold, one bronze.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Madrid face struggling Juventus

Liverpool meet Frankfurt; Chelsea play host to Ajax

MADRID, AGENCIES

Real Madrid face a struggling Juventus side who have not won in more than a month and sit seventh in the Serie A standings, four points behind leaders AC Milan. However, Real Madrid coach Xabi Alonso warned against taking the Italians lightly.

"We're on alert for Juve tomorrow (Wednesday). Any Italian team that's struggling can be dangerous. We must not forget history. Juve are a big club, both now and in the past. They have some very good players," he said.

"It's a European classic. They have faced each other many times, and I've played in some of those games. We feel very prepared. We want our third Champions League victory and to get off to a great start. We need the stadium. People go to the Bernabeu wanting to see big games. We have to give them what they want so that they respond in kind."

Alonso praised his in-form striker Kylian Mbappe for his stellar form this season, as the French forward tops both the LaLiga and Champions League scoring charts ahead of Wednesday's home clash with Juventus.

Mbappe, 26, who joined Real from Paris St Germain last season, has scored 10 goals in nine LaLiga matches and five in two Champions League appearances, alongside three goals for the French national team this term.

His form has helped Real make a strong start under Alonso, winning 10 of their 11 games across all competitions. The Spanish side lead LaLiga with 24 points, two ahead of Barcelona, and have secured maximum points in the Champions League.

"It's not just the goals," Alonso told reporters on Tuesday. "His influence is almost as important in terms of his teammates following him with and without the ball. He's helping us. He's scored goals everywhere. The influence, as well as the goals, is what the team needs."

Ekitike returns

When Liverpool striker Hugo Ekitike returns to face his former club Eintracht Frankfurt in the Champions League on Wednesday, he will find a side which bears little resemblance to the one he left in July, reports AFP from Frankfurt.

Last year, Frankfurt qualified for the Champions League by finishing in the Bundesliga top four for the first time in their history. Their third-placed finish was their best result since the 1992-93 season.

However, the Eagles have lacked any sort of consistency since the start of the current campaign and boast just one win in their past five games in all competitions. While Liverpool, on a four-game losing streak, have teething problems of their own, Frankfurt have struggled after once again losing its biggest star. Last season, Ekitike was Frankfurt's principal attacking force, particularly after the winter departure of Omar Marmoush to Manchester City.

The Frenchman scored 22 goals and laid on 12 assists in 48 games in all competitions. But Frankfurt have made a habit of selling their biggest talents for big profits in recent years.

Schedule: Athletic Bilbao vs Qarabag FK, Galatasaray vs Bodo/Glimt (both 10:15 pm IST); Real Madrid vs Juventus, Eintracht Frankfurt, Sporting CP vs Marseille, Chelsea vs Ajax, Monaco vs Tottenham, Atlanta vs Spahia Praha, Bayern Munich vs Club Brugge (all 12:30 am IST - Thursday).

Thibaut Courtois has insisted Real Madrid will not overlook their Champions League fixture against Juventus ahead of their Clasico Clash. AFP

LIVE 10:15 PM ONWARDS, SONY SPORTS NETWORK

Ngairangbam hat-trick in Kickstart FC win; United Stars collect 4-2 victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ngairangbam Rakesh Singh scored a hat-trick as Kickstart FC posted a 3-1 win over FC Agniputhra in the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Tuesday.

Ngairangbam opened the scoring in the 25th minute and then doubled Kickstart's lead in the 41st. Azfar Noorani drew one back for Agniputhra in the 59th minute.

However, Ngairangbam put the game out of Agniputhra's reach when he scored in the 63rd minute to complete his hat-trick.

In the day's other games, goals from Mangalenthang Singsit and Thangjalen Haokip helped Parikrma FC beat FC Real Bengaluru 2-0, while Vinay R, Kaviarasan K, and Murali Srinivas found the back of the net as United Stars FC handed Bangalore City FC a 4-2 defeat.

Results: Kickstart FC: 3 (Ngairangbam Rakesh Singh 25th, 41st, 63rd) bt FC Agniputhra: 1 (Azfar Noorani 59th); Parikrma FC: 2 (Mangalenthang Singsit 72nd, Thangjalen Haokip 85th) bt FC Real Bengaluru: 0; United Stars FC: 4 (Vinay R 45th+2, 85th, Kaviarasan K 73rd, Murali Srinivas 81st) bt Bangalore City FC: 2 (Ajay Shanker Kadam 19th, Mohammed Habeel P 79th).

US grandmaster Naroditsky dies aged 29

NEW YORK, AFP: The chess world has been plunged into mourning following the sudden death of prominent US grandmaster Daniel Naroditsky aged 29.

Governing body the International Chess Federation (FIDE) remembered Naroditsky, who was also a chess commentator and streamer, as someone "whose influence extended far beyond the chessboard".

Fellow grandmaster and world number two Hikaru Nakamura wrote on social media: "I'm devastated. This is a massive loss for the world of chess."

Charlotte Chess Center announced the death of California-born Naroditsky on Monday, saying: "Daniel was a talented chess player, commentator and educator, and a cherished member of the chess community."

It said he was "admired and respected by fans and players around the world". It did not say how he died.

Sinner skips Italy's Davis Cup Final 8

BOLOGNA (ITALY), AP

Jannik Sinner won't compete for host Italy — the two-time defending champion — in the Davis Cup Final 8 next month. But Carlos Alcaraz was included in Spain's team on Monday.

Also lined up to play in Bologna from Nov. 18-23 are third-ranked Alexander Zverev for Germany and No. 8 Lorenzo Musetti for Italy.

"While it's still very agonising for us, we understand and respect Jannik's decision, which comes at the end of a long and intense season," said Angelo Binaghi, the president of the Italian tennis federation. "We're sure he will wear the national team shirt again soon."

Sinner won two Grand Slam titles this year—the Australian Open and Wimbledon — but also served a three-month doping ban. Italy captain Filippo Volandri also included Flavio Cobolli, Matteo Berrettini, Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori in his team.

Jannik Sinner. AFP

Up to three players can be changed before the competition starts, but Sinner's decision appears final.

"Jannik Sinner didn't make himself available," Volandri said.

Joining Alcaraz on Spain's team are Jaume Munar, Pedro Martinez and Marcel Granollers. A fifth player has not yet been announced. After last month's draw, Spain will play the Czech Republic in the quarterfinals before potentially facing Germany or Argentina. Italy was drawn against Austria with France playing Belgium for the other semifinal spot.

Syndrela & Divyanshi top U-19 TT rankings

NEW DELHI, PTI: Syndrela Das and Divyanshi Bhowmick have achieved a historic milestone by climbing to the No. 1 spot in the latest ITTF Under-19 Girls' Doubles World Rankings, released on Tuesday.

The Indian duo topped the global standings with 3910 points, ahead of Chinese Taipei's Wu Jia-En and Wu Ying-Syuan (3195) and France's Leana Hochart and Nina Guo Zheng (3170).

In another first for the Indian table tennis, six Indian girls have broken into the top 100 of the world doubles rankings, underlining the country's steady rise in youth development.

Syndrela and Divyanshi's ascent to the top is the result of a string of strong performances at both domestic and international events. The pair has captured gold medals at the WTT Youth Contender in Goa and WTT Youth Star Contender in Tunis.

Lakshya shown the door

PARIS, PTI

India's Lakshya Sen bowed out of the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament after suffering a straight-game defeat to Ireland's Nhat Nguyen in the men's singles opening round here on Tuesday.

Lakshya, who had reached the finals of Hong Kong Open, looked off-colour from the start to eventually go down 7-21, 16-21 to the world number 29 Nhat.

Last week, the 24-year-old shuttler from Almora had defeated Nhat in a three-game opener at Denmark Open but he was erratic in Paris, repeatedly hitting wide and into the net while struggling to find rhythm against his opponent's steep smashes.

The Indian's deep tosses often missed the lines, and his attacking play lacked precision as he trailed 2-7 early in the opening game.

Despite doing most of the hard work in rallies, Lakshya frequently faltered on the finishing shot. He was six points behind at the interval after another wide return and never recovered as Nhat moved to 19-7 before sealing the opener with a crisp cross-court winner.

The change of ends brought little change in fortune for the world No. 16 Indian, who quickly fell behind 1-6 in the second game. Though he narrowed the gap to 4-6, a series of unforced errors saw Nhat restore an 11-5 advantage at the break.

Lakshya mounted a brief fightback to 11-15 but mistakes at crucial points again hurt his chances. At 14-17, a long rally ended with a backhand into the net, and two more errors gave Nhat six match points. The Indian saved two before the Irish shuttler finished the contest with a deceptive cross-court shot.

Lakshya Sen lost in straight games to Ireland's Nhat Nguyen 7-21, 16-21 in the opening round of the French Open in Paris on Tuesday. AFP FILE PHOTO

AIFF awards Rs 22 lakh to U-17 women's team

NEW DELHI, PTI: AIFF on Tuesday announced a reward of USD 25,000 (Rs 22 lakh approx) for the India U-17 women's team for its maiden entry into the AFC U-17 Asian Cup recently.

India had defeated Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan by identical 2-1 margins last week in Bishkek to top Group G with six points and qualify for the prestigious AFC tournament in China next year, their first-ever continental qualification in this age group.

"The All India Football Federation (AIFF) is pleased to announce a reward of USD 25,000 for the India U-17 women's national team after its extraordinary performance that saw it secure qualification for the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup for the first time," said the country's football governing body in a release.

India had last participated in the U-17 Women's Asian Cup in 2005, but no qualifiers were held for the tournament. AIFF said great effort was put in by the federation to ensure success of the U-17 side.

"The results come after careful planning from the federation that helped the India U-17 women put in commanding performances in the two matches. "

Teen javelin sensation Himanshu eyes Under-20 glory

Haryana athlete recently smashed Neeraj's 11-year-old under-18 record

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

The World Athletics U-20 Championships have long held a soft corner in Indian track and field history. Unlike the senior stage -- where only Neeraj Chopra and Anju Bobby George have climbed the podium -- India's junior brigade has punched above its weight with 11 medals, including two golds. It's where dreams have often taken flight, and where the next generation of stars first announces itself to the world.

It's also where India's biggest athletics icons, Neeraj and Hima Das, first made global headlines. Neeraj's thunderous 86.48m throw in Bydgoszcz 2016 still stands as a U-20 world record. But since 2018, the Indian anthem hasn't been heard at the top of the podium for seven years despite close calls, like Shaili Singh's heartbreak at Nairobi 2021. That could change soon.

The next U-20 Worlds, to be held in Oregon next year, might just witness the birth of another golden chapter.

The reason could be a fearless teen from Haryana who's just rewritten history. At the recently concluded National Junior Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar, 17-year-old Himanshu Jakhar smashed Neeraj Chopra's 11-year-old U-18 record of 76.50m, not once, but twice. He first broke it in the qualifying round and then hurled the javelin to a massive 80.38m in the final.

Himanshu Jakhar (centre) with Neeraj Chopra (right) and coach Jan Zelezny.

The boy from Jhajjar, already ranked U-18 world No. 1 after his 69.53m effort with the 800gm javelin in June, has now booked his ticket to Oregon. And he's not hiding his intent.

"*Sir, tagdi tayyari karni hai U-20 ke liye* (sir, I'm going to work hard for the U-20 Worlds)," Himanshu tells *DH*. "Bhubaneswar performance gave satisfaction but it is behind me now. I threw 82m-plus in training, so I knew I'd cross 80 there if I executed my technique right."

Standing at just 5 feet 10 inches at the moment, Himanshu is proof that power isn't everything in javelin.

He's shorter and leaner than most of his European counterparts but has an uncanny knack for generating explosive strength. Ask him about it, and he gives a simple answer.

"There's no secret to my power, I don't rely on power much. I just focus on getting my technique right. I follow what my coach (Arvind Kumar) says and try to execute accordingly, rest just fall in place," says the reigning U-18 Asian Champion.

While his 80m-plus came with the lighter 700gm javelin, his best with the 800gm version (used at U-20 level) currently stands at 69.53m. That number might raise eyebrows, given that the last few U-20 world titles were won with throws between 75 and 80m. But his coach, Arvind Kumar, insists there's nothing to worry about.

"Since his 69m throw in June, he's already improved to 73m in training," says Arvind, who trains Himanshu in Hisar. "Given his improvement rate and a full off-season, I'm sure we'll add another 4-5m to that."

And Himanshu won't be alone in carrying India's javelin hopes to Oregon.

Dipesh Choudhary (18) from Rajasthan, is another medal contender after winning the U-20 final in Bhubaneswar with a 71.27m throw, just shy of his personal best of 72.98m in June.

Ranked world No. 16 in U-20, Dipesh joins Himanshu in what could be a historic double charge for India in Oregon.

Their advent gives nation the hope that If Neeraj lit the path in 2016, Himanshu and Dipesh might just be ready to take that flame forward.

Mr Christopher for main event

DELHI SELECTIONS

Mr Christopher, from the stables of Syed Abbas and to be ridden by Shivam, appeals most in a small field of six runners in the fray for the Madras Race Club Cup, the feature event of the Delhi races to be run over a mile on Wednesday.

First race starts at 2.30 pm.

1. Guindy Plate - 1200M: Stylish Dancer 1, Real Boss 2, Poly Czar 3.
2. Chennai Plate - 1600M: Mystic Zlatan 1, Euphoria 2, Cashier 3.
3. Madras Race Club Cup - 1600M: Mr Christopher 1, Attenborough 2, Beejay 3.
4. Grand Stand Plate (Div-I) - 1000M: Ashwa Simran 1, Shera 2, Lemon Pie 3.
5. Grand Stand Plate (Div-II) - 1000M: Equal Luxury 1, Maya 2, Dashing Harry 3.
6. Ball Room Plate - 1100M: Burning Desire 1, Sir Mor 2, Alex 3.
Day's best: Mystic Zlatan. **Jackpot**: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **Treble**: 4, 5 & 5.

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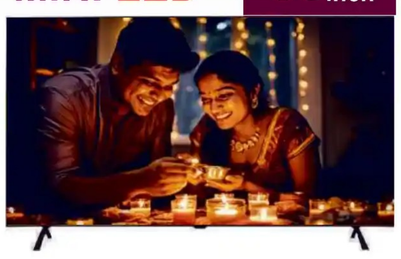

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Nettakallappa swim meet on Nov 8, 9

The annual Nettakallappa Swimming Competition will be held on November 8 and 9 at the Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre in Bengaluru with a total cash prize Rs 10 lakh at stake for the winners, reports DHNS.

The event, which has been growing in popularity with each of its edition, will once again host some of the country's finest athletes, including Olympians, competing for top honours.

The highlight of the three-day competition is the SKINS event, conducted in a knockout race format designed to test swimmers' endurance and speed.

The Most Valuable Swimmer (MVS) award has been instituted from this year, carrying a prize purse of Rs 50,000 for each standout performer across all events.

The last date for registration is November. Those interested in registration can visit the link nac.org.in/nettakallappa-swimming-competition.

IN BRIEF

K'taka's Nihal in Asian Youth squad

▸ Mangaluru's Nihal Kamal has been selected for the Indian athletics team to participate in the 3rd Asian Youth Games in Bahrain from October 22 to 31, reports DHNS.

Nihal will represent India in the 100m race and the 1000m medley relay. Nihal, a class 12 student at Delhi Public School in Kuwait, received training earlier this month at the Sports Authority of India (SAI), Bengaluru Campus.

DYES 'A' scores six past Army

▸ Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports 'A' thrashed Army Boys Sports Company 6-1 on day 8 of the 9th Hockey Karnataka League Championship on Tuesday, reports DHNS.

Results: DYES 'A': 6 (Ananath HM 16th, 58th, Desh Poovaiah 17th, Livin CP 20th, Aryan Uthappa MT 54th, Akheel Mutagar 57th) bt Army Boys Sports Company, MEG: 1 (Shivam Patel 12th); SAI STC: 3 (Pavan DR 2nd, 29th, Hrithik Aiyappa KD 52nd) bt Postal: 2 (Rajant 34th, Rahul 59th).

More reaches quarters

▸ Vishvajit More brought cheers to the Indian camp by reaching the quarterfinals but three of his compatriots lost their respective first-round contests in the Greco-Roman competition at the U23 World Championship on Tuesday, reports PTI from Novi Sad (Serbia).

Abhay loses in round of 16

▸ Leading India squash player Abhay Singh went down against Welsh third seed Joel Makin in the round of 16 at the US Open squash, a USD 226,000 PSA Platinum event, reports PTI from Philadelphia.

The 27-year-old lost 2-11, 5-11, 4-11 to the world No 4 on Monday.

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CRICKET

Women's WC: Australia vs England (**3 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports 1** & **JioHotstar**.

FOOTBALL

Champions League: Atalanta vs Slavia Prague, Bayern Munich vs Club Brugge, Chelsea vs Ajax, Frankfurt vs Liverpool, Monaco vs Tottenham, Real Madrid vs Juventus, Sporting CP vs Marseille **(all 12:30 am IST on Thursday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

CRICKET WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

India face Kiwis in must-win game

Struggling hosts look to consolidate semifinal hopes

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

For a team that was expected to sleep-walk into the knockout round, the target appears a bridge too far for India in the ongoing Women's World Cup. For a team that has had the best build-up to the tournament, it has struggled to close out games from winning positions.

Clearly, Indian women are struggling to handle big-tournament pressure at home.

While the loss to Australia, the best team in the event by some distance, was acceptable, the setbacks against South Africa and England exposed their inability to maintain focus and finish off the task.

And they would be the first ones to accept that they are yet to put a perfect game together and they will have a chance when they meet New Zealand at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on Thursday.

The game could potentially decide who progresses to claim the remaining slot in the semifinals.

These are two solid ODI outfits that are in not in great form. While the weather has hampered New Zealand's campaign, India have themselves to blame for the situation they are in.

Cause for concern

India have faced stiff tests in both batting and bowling departments. While they failed to defend 252 and 331 against South Africa and Australia, respectively, they fumbled to chase 289, needing 56 runs from 54 balls with seven wickets in hand against England..

Perhaps this is why India's second line of defence, Harleen Deol and Pratika Rawal, will become extremely important. Both players have 186 runs and 169 runs, respectively, but their strike rates are 70.99 and 75.11, adding extra weight to Smriti Mandhana to carry.

The good news for India is that Harmanpreet Kaur's 70-ball 70 in their last game showed glimpses of her return to form, which could be a key factor against New Zealand, given that the opposition know how dangerous she can be.

As the clock starts to tick rapidly towards the semifinal stage of the tournament, India, in the middle of a crisis, will hope for a better showing, as there is no better time than the present to learn from the past mistakes.

Team	Played	Won	Lost	N/R	NRR	Points
S Africa (Q)	6	**5**	1	0	**+0.276**	10
Australia (Q)	5	**4**	0	1	**+1.818**	9
England (Q)	5	**4**	0	1	**+1.490**	9
India	**5**	**2**	**3**	**0**	**+0.526**	**4**
New Zealand	5	**1**	2	2	**-0.245**	4
Sri Lanka	6	**1**	3	2	**-1.035**	4
Bangladesh	6	**1**	5	0	**-0.578**	2
Pakistan	6	**0**	4	2	**-2.651**	2

India will hope to put up a complete performance and eye two massive points against New Zealand at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on Thursday. AFP

Wolvaardt, Kapp take South Africa to the top

COLOMBO, PTI

South Africa steamrolled Pakistan by 150 runs in a rain-affected round robin league match to leapfrog to the top of the points table in the Women's World Cup here on Tuesday.

South Africa now have 10 points from six games and at least for a day, they would be above Australia and England -- both on 9 points and pitted against each other on Wednesday at Indore.

After initial delay, the match was curtailed to 40-over per side with South Africa scoring 312 for 9 riding on Laura Wolvaardt's 90 and half-centuries from Sune Luus (61) and Marizanne Kapp (68).

Marizanne Kapp scored an unbeaten 68 and then picked up three wickets in South Africa's win over Pakistan. AFP

However, multiple rain interruptions forced a further revision, and Pakistan were set a DLS target of 234 in 20 overs. They could manage only 83 for seven in reply.

Pakistan were never in contention to chase down the target and by the end of the 10th over, they had been reduced to 35 for 4 when heavens opened up.

Having already played her hand with a useful 68 while batting, Marizanne Kapp ran through Pakistan's top-order, taking three out of the four wickets to completely crush any hopes of a miraculous chase. Earlier Laura Wolvaardt provided an attacking start, Kapp lent solidity in the middle order as South Africa posted an imposing target.

Brief scores: South Africa 312/9 in 40 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 90, Sune Luus 61, Marizanne Kapp 68 n.o., Nadine de Klerk 41; Nashra Sandhu 3-45, Sadia Iqbal 3-63) bt Pakistan: 83/7 in 20 overs (Marizanne Kapp 3-20, Nondumiso Shangase 2-19). **Result:** SA won by 150 runs (DLS method). **PoM:** Marizanne Kapp. **Today's match:** Australia vs England.

SL, Afghanistan back India, but Naqvi remains adamant

NEW DELHI, PTI: The deadlock over the Asia Cup trophy, which is yet to reach champions India, continues to be unresolved as the Asian Cricket Council's Pakistani head Mohsin Naqvi has refused to part with it despite a fresh missive from the BCCI, backed by boards of Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

A top ACC source told PTI that Naqvi has insisted that a BCCI representative collect the trophy from him at the body's headquarters in Dubai but the Indian board has rejected that stance. The BCCI will bring this matter up in an ICC meeting next month.

"The BCCI secretary, BCCI's ACC representative Rajeev Shukla and representatives of other member boards including Sri Lanka Cricket and Afghanistan had written to the ACC president last week over handing the trophy to India," the ACC source said.

"But his response was that someone from BCCI should come to Dubai and take the trophy from him. So that matter has still not moved. BCCI has made its stance clear that it won't be receiving the trophy from him. So the matter will most likely be decided in the ICC meeting," he added.

The ICC is headed by former BCCI secretary Jay Shah. The trophy has been at the ACC headquarters after the Indian team refused to accept it from Naqvi at the presentation ceremony, prompting him to walk away with it in an unprecedented turn of events. Naqvi is also the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board and his country's interior minister.

The Indians had refused to shake hands with their Pakistani counterparts during the entire Asia Cup as a mark of respect for the victims of Pahalgam terror attack. The two teams played each other on every Sunday of the three-week tournament.

Fit-again Pant to lead India A against South Africa A

Padikkal included; Rahul, Prasidh to play second game

NEW DELHI, PTI

Devdutt Padikkal named in both the India A squad against South Africa A. AFP

India wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant was on Tuesday appointed captain of the national 'A' side for a two-match red-ball series against South Africa 'A' after fully recovering from a foot fracture sustained during the tour of England. Devdutt Padikkal was named in the squad for both matches while KL Rahul and Prasidh Krishna are in the squad for the second match.

Pant had injured his foot while batting in the fourth Test at Manchester in July and subsequently was not part of the Asia Cup squad and more recently the two-Test home series against the West Indies.

He was struck on his right toe by a Chris Woakes delivery but came out to bat heroically, scoring a half-century, albeit in a lost cause. The selectors have named him in the India 'A' squad for both games, to be held in Bengaluru from October 30. The A series will give Pant valuable game time ahead of the two-match home Test series against South Africa beginning November 14 in Kolkata.

Some other prominent names that will feature during the course of the two four-day games include Sai Sudharsan, who has been named vice-captain, wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel, pacer Mohammed Siraj among others. All six were a part of the squad for the West Indies Tests.

Siraj, Akash Deep and Jurel will play the second game, from November 6 to 9, during the short series. N Jagdeesan will be the second wicketkeeper in the squad for the first match. Sudharsan, whose technique was tested against the West Indies spinners, would be looking to improve that aspect of the game.

India regulars like Rahul, Siraj, Krishna and Jurel are part of the squad for the second game beginning November 6. Akash Deep, who has not played Test cricket since the tour of England, is also available for the second unofficial Test.

Among the domestic performers, it will be interesting to see how pacers Gurnoor Brar and Khaleel Ahmed fare.

India 'A' squad for the 1st four-day match: Rishabh Pant (C) (WK), Ayush Mhatre, N Jagdeesan (WK), Sai Sudharsan (VC), Devdutt Padikkal, Rajat Patidar, Harsh Dubey, Tanush Kotian, Manav Suthar, Anshul Kamboj, Yash Thakur, Ayush Badoni, Saransh Jain.

India 'A' squad for the 2nd four-day match: Rishabh Pant (C) (WK), KL Rahul, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Sai Sudharsan (VC), Devdutt Padikkal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Harsh Dubey, Tanush Kotian, Manav Suthar, Khaleel Ahmed, Gurnoor Brar, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Prasidh Krishna, Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep.

Rizwan ousted, Shaheen named Pak ODI captain

KARACHI, PTI: Pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi will replace Mohammad Rizwan as the ODI captain of Pakistan starting next month, amid speculation that the sudden change of guard was pushed by white-ball head coach Mike Hesson.

The Pakistan Cricket Board announced that Shaheen will lead Pakistan in the three-match ODI series against South Africa in Faisalabad from November 4-8. The decision, the board said, was taken at a meeting in Islamabad attended by the national selectors, advisory board members, and Hesson.

While the PCB has not cited any official reason for the switch, insiders believe Hesson's recommendation served as a "springboard" to make the change. The 25-year-old Shaheen has played 66 ODIs and 92 T20Is for Pakistan besides also featuring in 32 Tests.

The wicketkeeper-batter captained Pakistan in 20 ODIs, winning nine and losing 11, a record that included a poor run in the ICC Champions Trophy and the subsequent series defeats in New Zealand and the West Indies.

Yashovardhan replaces Padikkal

BENGALURU, DHNS

Yashovardhan Parantap

Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) named their 15-member squad for the upcoming Ranji Trophy matches against Goa and Kerala with Devdutt Padikkal's unavailability due to India 'A' duty.

The left-handed batter is replaced in the team by 21-year-old pace all-rounder Yashovardhan Parantap as the only change from their opening elite Group B match, where the Yeregoud K-coached side played a draw against Saurashtra last week.

Opener Mayank Agarwal continues to lead the team as Karnataka will take on Goa in their first home match in Shivamogga from October 25 followed by a trip to Thiruvananthapuram to take on hosts Kerala from November 1.

Ranji squad for Goa & Kerala matches: Mayank Agarawal, SJ Nikin Jose, Karun Nair, Smaran R, Shrijith KL (wk), Abhinav Manohar, Shreyas Gopal, Vidwath Kaverappa, Abhilash Shetty, Venkatesh M, Kruthik Krishna (wk), Mohsin Khan, Shikhar Shetty, Aneesh KV, Yashovardhan Parantap

Women's squad

Meanwhile, the Karnataka women's T20 team remained unchanged for the upcoming Super Eight stage matches of the Senior Women's T20 Trophy, starting in Surat from October 25.

Led by Niki Prasad, Karnataka finished second in elite group C behind Haryana to qualify for the next stage as Vrinda Dinesh starred with the bat in Karnataka's six wins out of seven games.

Vrinda is currently the third leading scorer in the tournament with 293 runs behind Haryana's Shafali Verma (341) and Tamil Nadu's G Kamalini (297).

Women's T20 squad: Niki Prasad (C), Vrinda Dinesh, Mithila Vinod, Shubha Satheesh, Shreyanka R Patil, Monica C Patel, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Prathyoosha Kumar (wk), BG Tejashwini, Sahana S Pawar, Soumya Verma (wk), Pooja Kumari M, Shishira A Gowda, Roshini Kiran, Ananya Hegde

Maharaj's seven leaves Pakistan spinning

RAWALPINDI, AFP: South Africa's Keshav Maharaj took seven wickets before the visitors ground their way to 185/4 to leave the second Pakistan Test in the balance on Tuesday in Rawalpindi.

The left-armer Maharaj took 7/102 for his 12th five-wicket Test haul to help bowl Pakistan out for 333 on a spin-friendly pitch.

Veteran Pakistan debutant spinner Asif Afridi then grabbed the crucial wickets of Tony de Zorzi (55) and Dewald Brevis for nought to restrict South Africa in their reply.

At close on day two Tristan Stubbs was batting on 68 having added an invaluable 113 runs for the third wicket with De Zorzi, who scored a polished half-century to lift the visitors from 54/2.

When it looked like the pair would stabilise the innings the 38-year-old spinner Asif trapped De Zorzi leg-before and earned his first wicket on review.

Brief scores: Pakistan (O/n: 259/5) 333 all out in 113.4 overs (Abdullah Shafique 57, Shan Masood 87, Saud Shakeel 66, Salman Agha 45; Keshav Maharaj 7-102, Simon Harmer 2-75) vs South Africa: 185/4 in 65 overs (Aiden Markram 32, Tristan Stubbs 68, Tony de Zorzi 55; Asif Afridi 2-24).

South Africa's Keshav Maharaj celebrates after taking his seventh wicket on the second day of the second Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi on Tuesday. AFP

Atiqa delivers a masterclass in overtaking in karting meet

DUBAI, PTI: Indian racing sensation Atiqa Mir (**in pic**) staged a remarkable recovery drive after a sudden technical issue pushed her to back of the grid, climbing as many as 25 spots to finish a creditable eighth in round three of the IAME Karting Championship here.

The 10-year-old karter, who is the first Indian to be backed by Formula 1, passed a melee of karts from 33rd on the grid for a top-10 finish.

Starting the final second on the grid, the Akcel GP driver was the favourite to win again but disaster struck when her kart did not start on the formation lap due to a technical issue. Atiqa was forced to start the race from the pit lane but that did not deter her steely spirit as she put up an overtaking exhibition.

"That felt like a win... I could have finished even higher but for a few unruly drivers. I was gutted obviously when my kart didn't start on the grid but I used that energy to move forward," said Atiqa.

WI bowl 50 overs of spin, win via Super Over

DHAKA, AFP

West Indies bowled a full 50 overs of spin in their second ODI against Bangladesh on Tuesday, a first in one-day international cricket history, as the visitors emerged victorious at the end of a super over.

After holding Bangladesh to 213 for seven wickets, West Indies made 213-9 in their 50 overs and hit 10 runs in their super over to win the match by one run and level the three-match series at 1-1.

The match had a total of 92 overs of spin, the highest in an ODI. The previous record was 78 overs.

Shai Hope. AFP

Five West Indies spinners bowled 10 overs each after the tourists dropped pace bowlers Jayden Seales and Romario Shepherd from the starting XI and Bangladesh elected to bat first in Mirpur.

Left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie took three wickets at a cost of 65 runs. Alick Athanaze conceded just 14 runs and took two wickets and Akeal Hosein took two for 41.

Roston Chase conceded 44 runs and Khary Pierre 43 in their 10 overs as West Indies avoided using their only pace bowling option, Justin Greaves.

It was the first time a team bowled 50 overs of spin in an ODI match, surpassing Sri Lanka's previous mark of 44 overs of slow bowling in a match in 1996.

The tactic was also surprising from a team that once ruled world cricket with an attack built round high-quality fast bowlers.

Brief scores: Bangladesh: 213/7 in 50 overs (Soumya Sarkar 45, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 32 n.o., Rishad Hossain 39 n.o.; Akeal Hosein 2-41, Gudakesh Motie 3-65, Alick Athanaze 2-14) lt to West Indies: 213/9 in 50 overs (Alick Athanaze 28, Keacy Carty 35, Shai Hope 53 n.o., Justin Greaves 26, Nasum Ahmed 2-38, Tanvir Islam 2-42, Rishad Hossain 3-42). **Result:** Match tied, WI won the Super Over. **PoM:** Shai Hope. **Series:** 3-match series tied 1-1. **Next Match:** Oct 23 (Mirpur).

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